



Grandview Heights/ Marble Cliff Historical Society

Fall 2021
Issue Number 3

Become a Member

Renew Your
Membership

Make a Donation

Discovering, Collecting, and Preserving Our Communities' Heritage

Dear Members,

Since I communicated with you last, the seasons have changed and we are enjoying the brisk days of Fall and all that brings with it...colorful leaf displays, the fun and fantasy of Halloween and the anticipation of upcoming holidays. **Activity and change has also been at the forefront for the Society**

In this e-news edition:

- learn how the **Society's 2021 Annual Meeting** took on a seasonal vibe.
- find out how **history was made in the governance of Marble Cliff in 2021**.
- take a look at the **newest *History Walks*** tour highlighting our local architecture.
- read a current ***Moment in Time*** as well as one reprinted from the Society's archives (*Moment In Time Revisited*).
- learn about the launch of **the refreshed Society website**.

I am pleased to announce that **Kendy Troiano has joined the Society Board**. Troiano's commitment to the community and its history is grounded from living most of her life in Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff. Troiano currently lives with her husband Sam in Marble Cliff where she serves as a member of Village Council.

Remember to **renew your annual membership**. Or if you're not yet a **member, consider joining** the Society by [clicking here](#). You can also make a monetary donation to the Society [here](#).

As this is the **last Society e-news for 2021**, I want to take this opportunity to **thank Board members** who contributed to a successful year for the Society. I also extend my **sincere thank you to Jackie Cherry** for her years of service as a trustee on the Society Board. Jackie completed her term on the Board in October 2021.

And finally, but certainly not least, I want to express **my appreciation to each and every Society member** for your support of the Society's mission. Your membership permits the Society to serve as the conservator of our local history. **Thank you for your continued support.**

Wishing you all the best for the upcoming holidays.

Kent Studebaker
President

2021 Annual Meeting



More than 60 members and guests enjoyed the Society's Annual Meeting on October 11 at the [Ohio Taproom](#). The ***Howlers, Growlers and Ghosts event*** began with a happy hour featuring a specialty spooky cocktail, seasonal brew and lite bites. A brief Society business meeting preceded a social gathering that included storyteller Kevin McAllister of the Ohio Taproom who shared spooky tales. **Society Trustee Ruthanne James**

and Society member Mike Curtin also shared personal memories of Lucinda and the Confectionary that previously occupied the Ohio

Taproom site.

Society Vice President Karen Riggs highlighted the Society's past year's activities: **new tours added to *History Walks*** (see article below), the introduction of this **quarterly e-news publication** and the **refresh of the Society's website** (more information in an accompanying article). Karen also highlighted what's in store for 2022, the primary activity being the Society's **triennial Tour of Homes in October**. The business included **election of four Board Trustees**: Marnie Hoag (affirming an earlier Board appointment), Jill Kuyper, Kendy Troiano, and Joanie Veri.

The Annual Meeting was **sponsored by *epic Group* and *Haus Studio***. Additional support was provided by Trove Warehouse, K.A. Menendian Rug Gallery, Anthony Thomas, Watershed Distillery, Jeni's Ice Cream, Maggie Flanagan, Kris Ross, Liz Arndt, and Bryan Bair.

Thanks to Board members Kim Sides, Joanie Veri and Karen Riggs for spearheading the event.



Marble Cliff Council Makes History

Many consider history as something that has happened in the past. History, however, is being made every day. That certainly became true at Marble Cliff Village hall in 2021.

On April 19, 2021, Village Council appointed Charlotte Hickcox to an unexpired term as a member of Council. With this appointment, for the **first time in the Village's 120 year history, its six-member Council was made up of a majority of women** (four of six Council members). Hickcox, joined three other women already sitting as members of Council: Kendy Troiano,



Joanne Taylor and Marnie Hoag (effective July 1, 2021, Bridget Sarna replaced Hoag who moved from the Village). **The Society is proud to have both Troiano and Hoag serving as Trustees on the Society Board.**

Troiano shares some thoughts about current Council, stating, "I am currently in my twelfth year on Marble Cliff Council...When I was first appointed to Council, **I was the only woman on council**. In the past, the Council has had one or two women on board, but never a majority. This year - 2021 - has brought a new beginning for Marble Cliff as women are now the majority. In my opinion, having a majority of women on Village Council is a positive reflection of Marble Cliff and has created an environment that allows for more innovative ideas within Council. All of the women on Council bring a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives to the table which is great for Marble Cliff and has **a positive impact on the community** as a whole. The addition of more women to Council has added balance and allows the community to see that having women on Council has helped build a strong, positive Council that works together to help the people of Marble Cliff."

The **first woman Village Council member was Mertie Smith** who joined Council in the early 20th century (see her story below). Upon Smith's retirement in the 1950s, Council remained male dominated until the 1980s. Since then, most Councils have had at least one woman Council member.

Hoag also shares her insight as a past Council member, "In the Village of Marble Cliff, this is the first time in our history that we have had a majority of women elected to and serving on the Village Council at once – that is **an incredible asset to our community** to be able to reflect many perspectives and experiences. Local decision-making is stronger when everyone is involved. Everyone deserves a seat at the table regardless of gender or any other factor. We're better because of the **diversity of thought and experiences** within in our own community."

The recent elections maintained the make-up of Council for 2022 as both Troiano and Sarna were re-elected to Council along with colleagues Dow Voelker and Matt Jolson (only four of the six Council seats were up for election in 2021).

History Walks

[Take self-guided walking tours of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff](#)

From stately Queen Anne to rustic American Farmhouse homes, enjoy the addition to [History Walks](#) of the two self-guided walking tours of “Eclectic Abodes.” You will learn the A, B, C’s of home architecture and the diversity of home styles in Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff.



Note: Stops on these tours are private residences. Please respect the owners’ privacy and observe residences from public access points only.

More than 800 of your friends and neighbors have downloaded the free [History Walks](#) app to date ([Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#)). The app offers walking tours of historic places, notable buildings, ecological landmarks, and other sights within our communities. Each tour is approximately two miles long and will take 1 to 2 hours to complete on foot.

[History Walks](#) is a collaboration between the Society and the Grandview Heights Public Library.

Mertie Smith: Marble Cliff's First Woman Council Member



From the middle of the 19th century, women demanded access to appointed and elected positions, ranging from notary public to mayor. However, the language in most laws, including those in Ohio, required that any elected office holder must be “an elector”, or someone who has the ability to vote. **Women were not allowed to vote, so they couldn’t hold office.**

Some states, including Ohio, **passed laws that allowed women to be “elected” to school boards, and later added provisions that they could be appointed notaries.** But higher offices, such as mayor, city council, or state or federal representative were off limits.

This all **changed through ratification of the federal suffrage amendment in 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.** Ohio ratified the Amendment, and even passed legislation in April of 1919 that would allow women the vote, in case the states failed to ratify it before the 1920 elections. As it turned out, by August of 1920, 36 states (including Ohio) ratified the amendment and it became part of the U.S. Constitution, ensuring that the right to vote could not be denied based on sex.

Almost immediately after the ratification, women appeared on the ballots across the country, and were elected to the offices they had been dreaming of holding. **In Marble Cliff, Mertie Bennett Smith became a member of the Village Council,** an elected position she would hold until her retirement in 1951 (The inset photo above shows Mertie Smith at **her retirement after 30 years in elected office**).

Mertie Bennett (some records show her name to be Myrtle, but birth and christening and marriage records show her given name to be Mertie) was born in Harlem in Delaware County in 1868 to Daniel and Margaret Bennett. She **married McKendree Smith** just before her 17th birthday. He was five years older than she was. They lived in various places in Ohio, including Ironton, where McKendree served as the superintendent of schools. He graduated medical school from The Ohio Medical College and in 1903 was appointed an instructor in Dermatology and Syphilology at the College. The following year **Dr. Smith was named the head of the Columbus Health Department,** and served that organization until failing health in 1927 required him to retire.



One of his special assignments at the Board of Health was to determine why so many were dying of typhoid, and his experiments with the water system were instrumental in exposing sources of contamination in the northern watershed that provided the source of much of Columbus’ drinking water. **Dr. Smith used this expertise together with the political position Mertie Smith held on Village Council to upgrade the water and sewer systems of**

Marble Cliff, resulting in clean drinking water and sanitary sewers for the residents.

Mertie was quoted as saying that two petitions to Village Council launched her 30 year career. The first was to upgrade the Village streets and add streetlights and sidewalks. She said that her initial petition was unsuccessful, and these modernizations would have to wait. Her **second petition** was successful, and the resulting ordinance **prohibited individuals from “parking their cows” in the Village** because of the disturbance caused by their incessant mooing.



The Smiths lived on Tenth Ave. near Neil in 1900, where they rented rooms to eight students in their home. They moved to a rental on Cambridge Place before **settling in their Marble Cliff home at 1520 Arlington Avenue**, on the northeast corner of Arlington and Cardigan, which was built in 1913. The couple had a son Floyd and a daughter Louella, who married John Nau, who became an attorney and

served as Chief Magistrate (Mayor) of Marble Cliff. McKendree Smith died at home in 1928, and **Mertie lived at their home until her death in Macon, Georgia in 1960.**

Moment in Time - reprint from November 17, 2021

A new *Moment In Time* is published weekly in *ThisWeek Tri-Village News* and on the Society's website homepage. To see other *Moment In Time* articles from the Society's collection, [click here](#).

Tour of Homes 2022

The Society's triennial Tour of Homes will be held in October 2022.

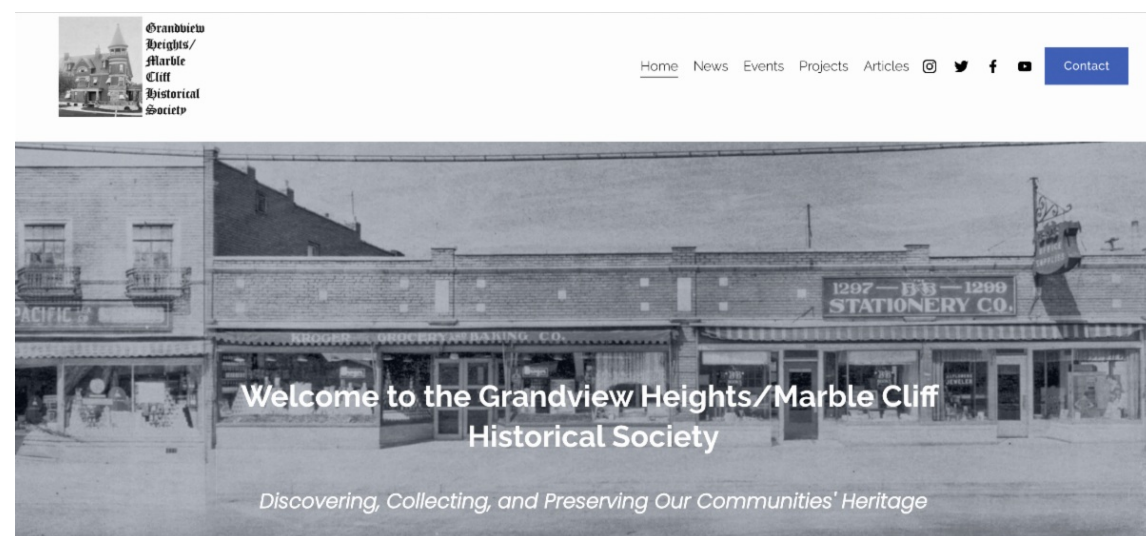
The tour will **highlight the unique and varied architecture** of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff.

If you'd like to **volunteer your time or your home** for the 2022 tour, please contact the Society at: ghmctourhomes@gmail.com.



To see the homes and information from **past tours**, [click here](#).

Check Out The Society's New Website



The Society is pleased to announce the **launch of its newly refreshed website (ghmchs.org)**. The site offers you the opportunity to see the breadth and depth of information the Society has in its collection.

Find the Society's current **"News"** which includes the weekly contributions of Emeritus Board Trustee Wayne Carlson as [Moment in Time](#). This offers insight into local history of both Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff. Explore past [Tour of Homes](#) as the Society prepares for the next triennial event in 2022.

Do you know how cutting edge the **development of the Bank Block** was on Grandview Avenue? Or, find out **more about Field Day**, the **impact of architect Frank Packard** had on our communities or **who's who in the history of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff**. Discover these and many other topics through the Society's website at ghmchs.org.

If you had bookmarked the Society's site in your browser, you will need to

replace that with a **bookmark of the new site (ghmchs.org)**.

Start your adventure of discovery today!

A Moment In Time Revisited

We wish you "**Seasons Greetings from the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society**" by reprinting an historic greeting. Edward and Cora Bradbury and their children Alford, Irving, and Frances sent this Christmas card with a picture of their home to friends and family. They lived at 1297 Wyandotte Rd between 1920 and 1944. Edward was the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer, and his son Alford was the editor and chief of the first GHHS Highlander yearbook and a member of the first senior class. The home is presently owned by the George and Laura Carter family.

Moment in Time - reprint from December 22, 2009

This *Moment In Time* was reprinted from the Society's archives. To see others in the collection, [click here](#).



The Society's Mission



The **purpose** of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society is **to discover, collect, and preserve information, materials, structures, and landmarks which may help to establish interest in the historic record** of the founding and development of the communities of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff

and thereby **educate the citizens of these communities and other interested persons**.

It is also to **maintain an historical archives** to support the research and preservation of the early history of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff and their environs.

For more information visit ghmchs.org.

**Grandview Heights/
Marble Cliff Historical Society**

1685 W. First Ave.
Grandview Heights, OH 43212
ghmchs@gmail.com

Contact
Us

