



Spring 2023  
Issue Number 9

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## History is Our Story, and Our Story is Your Story

Dear Members,

As Spring rolls into Summer, we have the opportunity to **enjoy our special communities** through a variety of activities. Participating in events like summer sports, family/neighborhood gatherings, a day at the pool, the Veterans Memorial Service (May 25), or the Memorial Day Parade (May 27) is all part of what **contributes to our story**.

In this edition, you can:

- learn how our communities were **impacted** in the last century by **restrictions for property ownership**.
- enjoy the newest **History Walks** tour: *Inspiring Women*.
- **volunteer** to help frame the Society's **50th Anniversary celebration** in 2024.
- read a **Moment in Time** gleaned from the Society's archives (*Moment In Time Revisited*).
- see how the Society's interactive **Timeline** is being updated.
- plan ahead for the Society's Annual Meeting in September as we highlight Stauf's 35 years in business.

Many Society resources are accessed through both the Society's website at [www.ghmchs.org](http://www.ghmchs.org) and the **Society's digital collection** online [here](#). Also, follow the Society on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Again, thank you for your continued support and being part of our story.

Kent Studebaker  
President

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## Redlining: Our Story of Past Property Ownership Restrictions

Our communities were not immune to **ownership restrictions** put in place in the early 20th century. Known as **redlining**, it was a discriminatory practice in which financial institutions refused to provide loans or insurance to people living in certain neighborhoods. Although it was **outlawed in the United States in 1968**, the effects of redlining are part of the history of many communities.

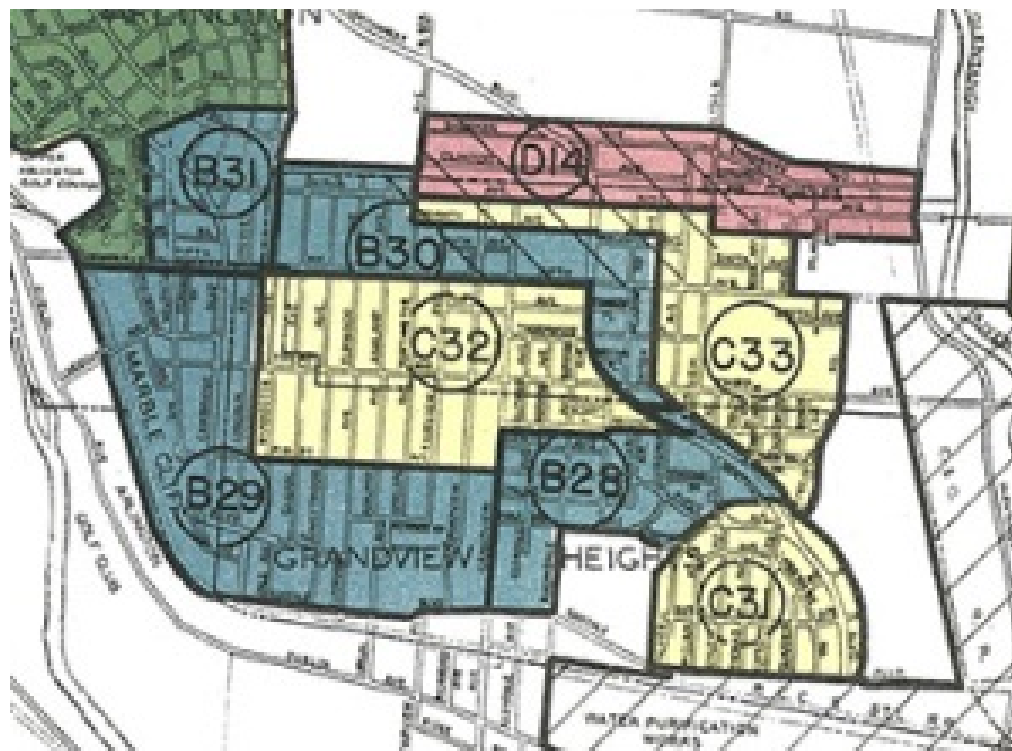
In the 1930's, the federal government's **Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC)** was created to **help stabilize the housing market** during the Great Depression. It, however, also created ethnic and economic disparities in communities that **negatively impacted** the ability for many to move into some suburban communities. As part of its mission, the agency **created "residential security maps" of cities** across the country, including Columbus.

**Redlining maps rated neighborhoods** based on a number of factors, including the age and condition of housing stock, racial and ethnic makeup of

the population, and perceived risk of default on mortgage loans. On the maps, areas considered desirable for lending purposes were outlined in blue (Type A). These were typically affluent suburbs on the outskirts of cities. Type B neighborhoods were considered "Still Desirable," whereas older Type C neighborhoods were labeled "Declining" and outlined in yellow. Type D neighborhoods were outlined in red and considered the most risky for mortgage support. The outcome of the practice of redlining was to **deny mortgages and business loans** to minorities and lower income borrowers.

In **Grandview Heights**, the Type C designation included the area **between First and Fifth Avenues**, which had a significant impact on the Italian-American population (see the 1936 map below). This area was considered high-risk due to its older housing stock and perceived risk of default on loans. As a result, individuals living in this area were often **unable to obtain loans to purchase or renovate homes**, and many were forced to rent or move elsewhere.





Redlining negatively impacted the growth and development of many communities across the country. It perpetuated segregation and contributed to disparities in wealth and opportunity. Though illegal today, it remains part of many communities' story.



A national traveling interactive exhibit, [\*Undesign the Redline\*](#), explores the history of redlining and its impact. It has been localized for Columbus by a committee of experts and historians, and will be in the Columbus area for several months. **In the Tri-Village, the exhibit will be displayed at the [\*Upper Arlington Municipal Services Center's Concourse Gallery\*](#) from June 1 to July 7.**

**LEGEND**

**Security Level for Real-Estate Investment**

-  A: Most Desirable for Mortgage
-  B: Still Desirable for Mortgage
-  C: Declining for Mortgage
-  D: Highest Risk for Mortgage

Additionally, the [\*Columbus Dispatch\*](#) recently reported on redlining and its impact in Columbus.

## *History Walks* Inspiring Women

Get inspired! Learn about a dancer, singer, heiress, politician, artist, and other acclaimed women from Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff on the newest [\*History Walks\*](#) walking tour: *Inspiring Women*.

The tour **highlights Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff women** past and present **who made an impact both locally and beyond**. The stories offer a peek into the history of the communities and their residents.

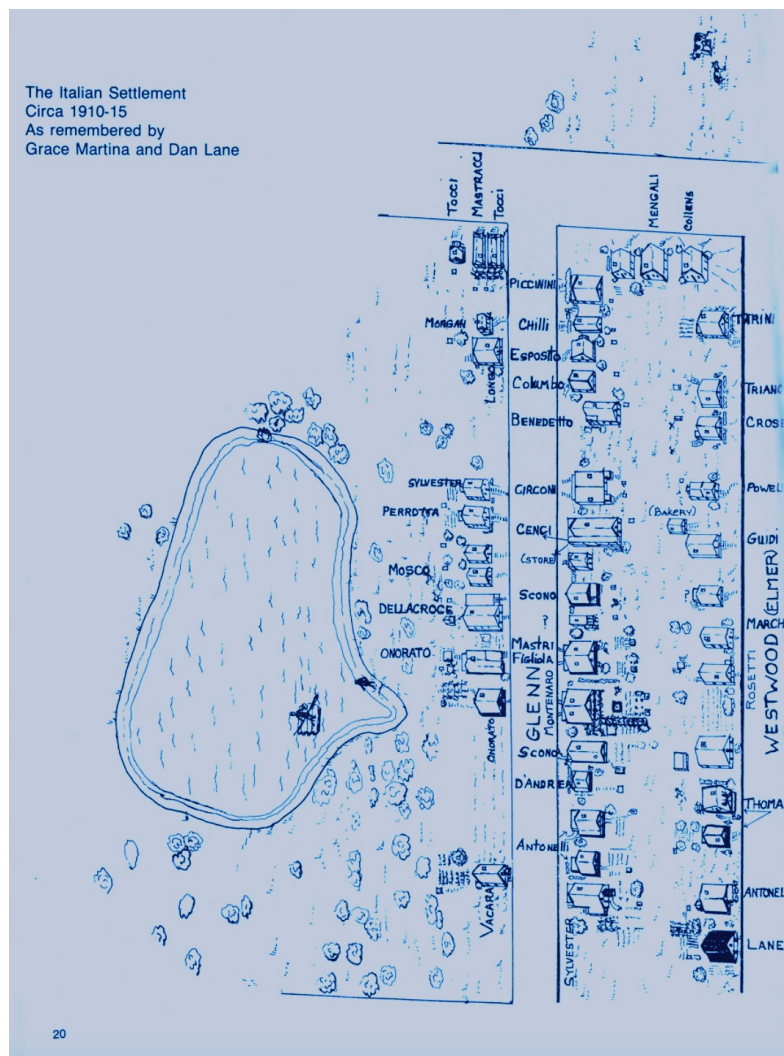


Enjoy this and 10 other walking tours by downloading the free app at at [grandviewhistorywalks.org](http://grandviewhistorywalks.org) or from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).

## A Moment In Time Revisited

### Local Redlining Experience

The original **Italian community in Grandview Heights** dates to around **1900** and was located on Westwood and Glenn Avenues between Third and Fifth. This map was published 25 years ago (sic; published 1985) in the GH/MCHS publication, [\*The Italian Heritage\*](#), and lists the resident families and the locations of their homes in the community around 1910-1915. A large pond was located to the west of Glenn Avenue. Assimilation of many of these immigrant families was neither immediate nor easy. Letters in the GH/MCHS archives refer to the **building of an eight to ten foot high fence**, painted dark green, that was erected between Wyandotte and Glenn Avenues. It traversed the entire block and was ostensibly built to confine the Italian community's chickens, goats, and others farm animals. It was constructed around 1910 when Wyandotte Avenue was being developed. It is not known when it was removed.



*Moment in Time* - reprint from July 14, 2010

To see the Society's collection of *Moment in Time*, [click here](#).

## Help the Society Prepare for a 50th Anniversary Celebration

Help prepare for Society's 50th Anniversary in 2024 by **volunteering now** to be part of a **planning committee** chaired by Society Trustee Teri Williams. The committee will **create a plan during 2023 for the Society's golden anniversary**. To participate, please e-mail the Society at [ghmchs@gmail.com](mailto:ghmchs@gmail.com) with your name and contact information.

## Interactive Timeline Additions



Have you noticed **changes** to the **Society's interactive Timeline** located on

the second floor of the Grandview Heights Public Library near the reference desk? It has been a while since it has been updated. The two-year pandemic restrictions did not allow for any timeline additions. Archivists Debbie Farynowski and Jill Kuyper are now diligently **adding pictures and text**. Newly-installed **areas of interest** include: 1911 school cornerstones, 1919 delivering coal, and many interesting happenings from 2018 through 2022. Stop by and enjoy the new information. The **touch screen monitor** highlights local history, as well as some national events allowing for comparison of what was happening in history elsewhere. **The Timeline can also be accessed on the Society's website, [click here](#).**

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## Save the Date

### Enjoy Some Coffee with Your History



We love Anniversaries! We will be helping ***Stauf's Coffee Roasters*** celebrate their **35th year in business** at their original retail location on Grandview Avenue. Come to the Society's Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, Sept. 12**, at Stauf's and learn about the Society's activities, Stauf's amazing history, and the nationally-recognized Bank Block building. Free admission and refreshments (including delicious Stauf's coffee). **Registration details will be posted on the Society's website soon**; mark your calendars now for this fun event!

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## 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](http://ghmchs.org)**.



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