



# Grandview Heights/ Marble Cliff Historical Society

Summer 2021  
Issue Number 2

Become a Member

Renew Your  
Membership

Make a Donation

## Your Local History Resource

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that Summer 2021 is mostly behind us. How nice it was to enjoy much of what summer has to offer after the unusual COVID summer of last year. We had the chance to see each other in person, dine out, and do a bit of traveling again.

Families are now gearing up for the start of a school year that will bring with it some new experiences. Grandview Heights Schools has a new Larson Middle building that will house high schoolers in the interim as renovations to the high school get underway full steam. In this e-news edition there is a look at the history of our local school district which gives some insight into its beginnings.

Also in this edition, see how pizza and the circus have had their impact on our communities. Take a look at the newest *History Walks* tour. And, see how to participate in the Society's spooky October event.

I am pleased to share with you that Joanie Veri has joined the Society Board. The Veri home was one of the featured residences on the Society's 2019 Tour of Homes. Joanie's commitment to the community and its history is an asset for the Society.

Look for a renewed Society website to launch September 2021. Until then, browse our current [website](#) to learn more about our local history.

It's also time for annual membership renewals. See more about that below.

**We are so happy to have you as a member.** It is support from individuals like you that permits the Society to serve as the conservator of our local history.  
**Thank you for your continued support.**

Kent Studebaker  
President

# History Walks...

## Take self-guided walking tours of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff

Join over 700 of your friends and neighbors who are learning about the fascinating history of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff through the free app *History Walks*. The app offers **walking tours of historic places**, notable buildings, ecological landmarks, and other sights within our communities. **Find Utopia...see the Bush family mansion...visit two buildings on the National Register of Historic Places...all on *History Walks*.**



**Free tours** guide you through seven to nine historical stops. Each tour is approximately two miles long and will take 1 to 2 hours to complete on foot. Stay tuned for new *History Walks* tours; **the next tour, "Eclectic Abodes", is under development** and will feature the **diverse architecture styles** of the homes in our communities.

*History Walks* is a **collaboration** between the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society and the Grandview Heights Public Library.

Download *History Walks* from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).

---

## A Look At Grandview Heights City Schools



With construction currently underway on a **new campus for Grandview Heights Schools**, here is some history of the evolution of the school district.

**In 1895 a new building was constructed** on a site at the corner of Fairview and First Avenues. The school was called the Harding School and originally had two rooms on the south side.

It was expanded to four rooms sandwiching the tall central tower in 1898. **The tower contained a large brass bell, which was melted and used in the war effort** after the building was razed in 1930. The entire building was sold as scrap for \$300.

In 1921, with 15 seniors and 725 students enrolled in the district overall, the school board asked for a levy to fund a **new combination high school and junior high school**. Response to the proposal was good, and a levy passed in November, 1922.

The school **opened on September 17, 1923**. It was formally dedicated on March 7, 1924. In 1924, one of the rooms on the second floor was used to house the new **Grandview Public Library**, which later moved to a building on First Avenue. The **cost of the high school was \$290,000**, and it added \$12,000 to the annual operating budget of the district. The school, built by the L.L. LaVeque Company contained 22 rooms and was designed to accommodate 600 students. This structure will, in part, remain as a section of the current building and renovations project.



The school board also was interested in preserving the expandability of the school campus, so **between 1922 and 1924 they acquired the property to the north of the high school**, which is now used as the athletic fields.

To find out more about the history of Grandview Heights Schools, go to the Society's website at [ghmchs.org](http://ghmchs.org).

---

## Tour of Homes 2022

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

The tour **highlights 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](mailto:ghmctourhomes@gmail.com).



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

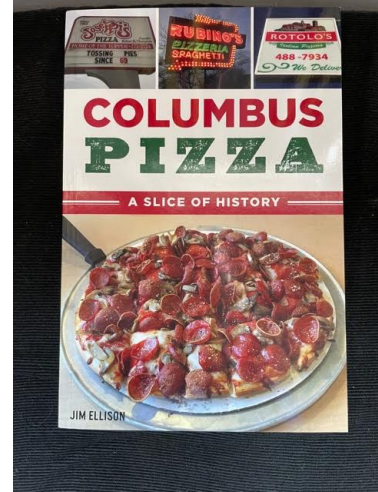
---

## Circus and Pizza: A Local Perspective

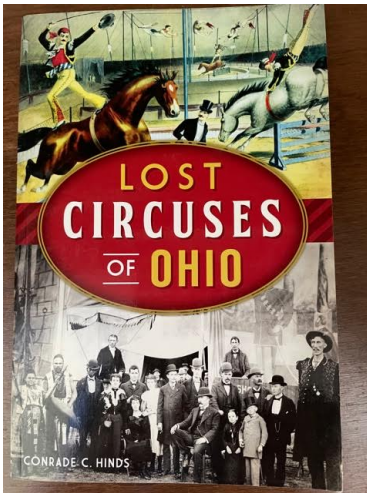
Have you ever had **Columbus pizza at a circus** in Ohio? You will find a slice of pizza history and discover the circus in **two books** about Ohio that the Society recently **added to their Archives**. The two titles are *Columbus Pizza* and *Lost Circuses of Ohio*.

Jim Ellison has meticulously stitched together a treasury of Italian immigrants and their **original style of pizza** which created thriving

businesses. The **first pizza in Columbus** was served in Flytown which would be south of Victorian Village today. Did you know **that local pizza maker Nick Panzera** assumed responsibility for their business at the early age of 15? To update the business, expensive equipment required a loan. The owner of the business needed to sign the contract. Since his father didn't speak English, Nick read the contract to him and then signed it. You will **find more stories** similar to this one in over 50-plus articles in ***Columbus Pizza***.



Hear author **Jim Ellison** talk about the evolution of pizza in our community on **Tuesday, November 9** from 7 to 8 pm at the Grandview Heights Public Library. For more information, [click here](#).



The second book focuses on **small and large circuses** that are a living but forgotten part of our American heritage. Following the Civil War, people were **searching for entertainment** close to their homes that would repeatedly bring smiles to the faces of children and adults alike.

What would you do if you purchased a tired grizzly bear for \$350, a camel for \$410, and four lion cubs for \$860? Enter the **Sells Brothers Family story**. In the spring of 1872, the **Sells Brothers Circus** had its **debut at the corner of State and High** in downtown Columbus. With the previously mentioned animal purchases, the business struggled! It was determined that the lack of real success was the absence of an elephant. The Sells Brothers Circus **toured continuously for 35 years** and became the most respected in the American circus business.

***Lost Circuses of Ohio*** describes the circuses from the 19th century into the 20th century of the American circuses.

On **Tuesday, October 19** from 7 to 8 pm, join author **Conrade C. Hinds** at the **Grandview Heights Public Library** for stories about daring acrobats, exotic animals, Ohio sharpshooter Annie Oakley, and unique circus attractions. [Click here](#) for more information.

---

## Howlers, Growlers, and Ghosts

The Society presents its **Annual Meeting at The Ohio Taproom (1291 W. 3rd Ave)** on **October 11** from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Learn about this **historic building and its haunted history**....and hear a **ghost story** or two. If you are feeling especially festive, **wear your favorite Halloween costume**.

Presented by the Society, **admission includes**



one complimentary beverage and one lite bite. The evening will begin with a happy hour featuring a **specialty spooky cocktail or seasonal brew**. A brief Society business meeting will precede a guest storyteller. **Door prizes will be given away** at the end of the evening. The Ohio Taproom's beverage menu will be available for additional purchases throughout the evening.

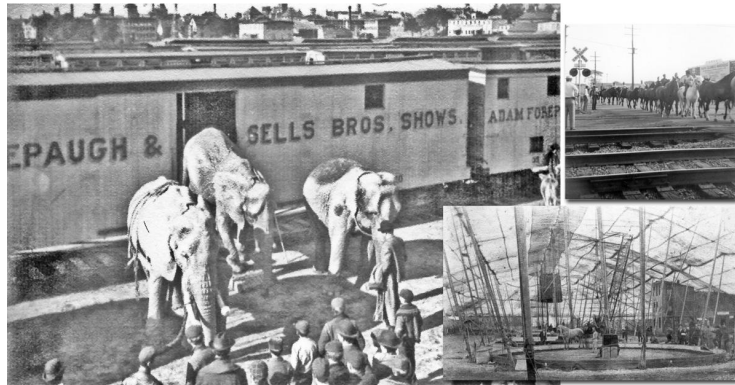
The event is **FREE** to current Society members who register early. Watch your e-mail for details. The venue is small, so tickets are limited.

The Annual Meeting is sponsored by epic Group and Haus Studio. Additional support provided by Trove Warehouse, K.A. Menendian Rug Gallery, and artist Maggie Flanagan.

---

## Elephants on The Avenue

The **Sells Brothers Circus** was started in 1871 in Columbus. After the first show at State and High Street, they **purchased the first of many elephants**, which became the main attraction for their circus. By 1890 it was the **second largest in the**



**United States**, and gained notoriety for the use of railroad cars to transport the animals from location to location (at one point in their history they used 47 railroad cars to transport the circus). In 1896 James Bailey purchased part ownership in the **Sells Circus, which wintered in Sellsville, just north of Grandview**, and renamed it the Adam Forepaugh and Sells Brothers Shows. This **1901 photo** shows the **bull elephants being offloaded** from one of the rail cars. In 1906 the entire circus was sold to the Ringling Brothers. The bottom right photo shows the raising of one of the big-tops in 1906, and the upper right shows horses from the **Ringling Brothers circus crossing the railroad at Grandview Avenue** on the way from the train cars to the show in 1950.

*Moment in Time* - reprint from September 14, 2005

To see other *Moment In Time* articles from the Society's collection, [click here](#).

---

## Time to Renew Your Annual Membership

**It's time to renew your Annual Membership** Your current Annual Membership ends August 31. Renew now to be certain to **continue to support the Society's work** in the community. Members **enjoy discounts** on

publications and certain event tickets. For convenience, [click here](#) to renew your Annual Membership online.

---

## 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).

---

### ***Grandview Heights/ Marble Cliff Historical Society***

1685 W. First Ave.  
Grandview Heights, OH 43212  
[ghmchs@gmail.com](mailto:ghmchs@gmail.com)

Contact  
Us

