

Winter 2023
Issue Number 8



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History is Our Story, and Our Story is Your Story

Dear Members,

I hope 2023 has begun well for you. We are looking forward to another year of offering you a **glimpse into the history of our communities**.

You may have noticed a different look to the banner of this e-newsletter. This resulted from a professionally-guided review process that included a focus group (members and non-members) and **significant Board analysis and introspection**. As part of the findings, we've unveiled a **new logo** that better represents the Society today as well as reflects its purpose of highlighting the past.

In this edition, you can:

- discover how **quarries** have been a significant part of our local history.
- learn how the Society's *Moment in Time* came about.
- learn how you can help **frame the celebration** of the Society's 50th Anniversary in 2024.
- read a ***Moment in Time*** gleaned from the Society's archives (*Moment In Time Revisited*).
- discover how you can **join the Board of Trustees**.

Planning is underway for 2023. Look for announcements about future events, activities, and projects.

Many Society **resources are accessed** through both the **Society's website** at 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

Local Quarries Continue to Contribute to the Communities

Quarries have long been part of the history of our communities. The Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff area was the site of several stone quarries that were operational from the mid-1800s. The product of the quarries was not marble, as the name of the adjacent village might suggest, but primarily Monroe and Columbus limestone. Stone slabs used in the construction of notable buildings such as the Statehouse, stones for fences up and down Riverside Drive, aggregate used in some of the area's first asphalt roads are among the uses for the stone quarried here.

The **Marble Cliff Quarry was the largest of the quarries.** Small communities developed around the quarries due to large numbers of Italian immigrants brought in by ***Silvio Casparis*** who himself immigrated from Italy. His Casparis Stone Company ultimately merged with several others to form the **800+ acre Marble Cliff Quarry.** This photo (right) shows a quarry worker using a jackhammer to break up the stone so that it could be mined and shipped.



The Marble Cliff Quarry began operations in the mid-19th century just west of the Scioto River. In its early days, **manpower and horsepower were instrumental** in moving hundreds of tons of quarried stone from the crushers to construction sites and foundries all over Columbus.

The **introduction of railroads and trains** to move the stone changed the business entirely. The Marble Cliff Quarry Company designed and **built its own engines, called saddle tank engines** because of the design of the water tanks used for steam generation. An October 2, 1880 *Columbus Dispatch* article documented a planned explosion that displaced an estimated 700 tons of rock. "The Marble Cliff Quarry is working 29 men at present..." he wrote. He went on to say that 80 railroad cars per week were loaded at the quarry, and in 23 years, seven acres of stone had been removed, and 90 acres remained. Railroads, such as the Toledo & Central Ohio Railroad and the Panhandle Railroad, brought coal to the quarry and transported stone slabs and crushed stone from the quarry. **Steam engines worked the quarry until 1971**, when trucks and diesel engines took over the task.



The Marble Cliff Quarry **used rock crushers, many built by the Jeffrey Mining Machinery Company in Columbus**, to process stone into uniform sized gravel, stone, and powder that was used in manufacturing and macadam road covering. This photo (left) shows limestone being unloaded using a quarry steam

shovel. The locomotive in the photo is the famous MCQ engine #10, a classic saddle tank engine.

Today, limited quarry activity remains in the area. However, **quarried land is being transitioned to other uses**. In the Fall of 2021, [*Quarry Trails Metro Park*](#) opened its first phase on the former site of the Marble Cliff Quarry. Ultimately, the park is intended to be 180 acres, offering a waterfall and lakes, walking trails, kayaking, fishing, and a mountain bike trail, just to name a few amenities. Additional phases of park remain in development.

For more about the history of local quarries, [click here](#).

History of the Society's *Moment in Time*

On January 26, 2023, the *ThisWeek TriVillage News* ceased publication. Since the early 2000s, this local newspaper was the print source the Society used to provide the public its *Moment in Time (MIT)* articles highlighting stories and images of local historic significance. Emeritus Trustee and MIT author Wayne Carlson **shares the history of MIT**.

"In 1996, Tom DeMaria and I engaged in a conversation about his experience with the Society. Started in 1974, the Society had been doing a reasonable job of collecting and documenting the rich history of the Tri-Village area. However, aside from the publication of several manuscripts, there had been little dissemination of the content of their historical collection and activities, particularly beyond the Society membership. DeMaria, who was serving as a board member at the time, invited me to **address the Board about some emerging technologies** (such as digital scanning, rich integrated databases, presentation software, and most importantly, the World Wide Web) that could be utilized to reach the entire community and beyond.

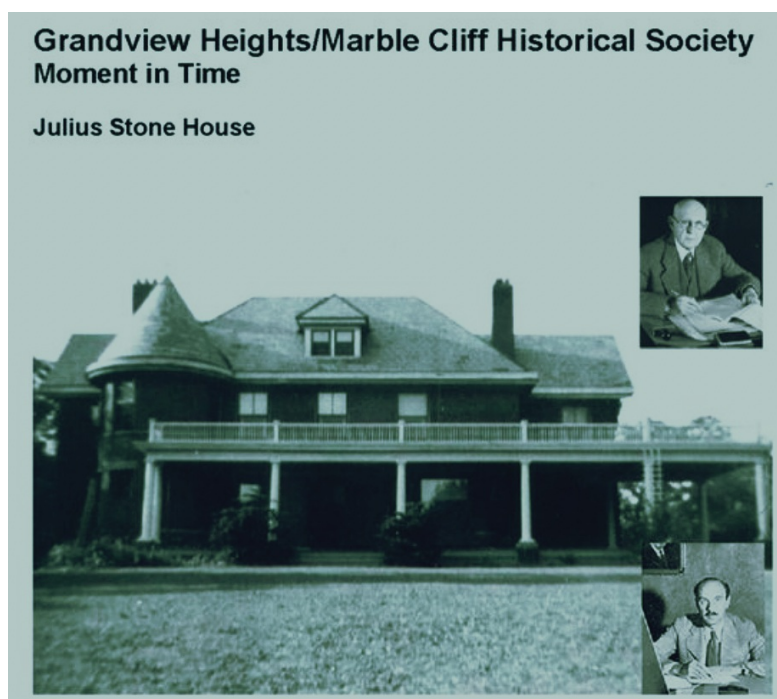
As a result of that presentation, I was invited to join the Board as a **technology "expert."** Several members helped with the daunting task of **digitizing photos, newspaper articles, and other documents in the Society's collection**, with the goal of making the digital content accessible. At the same time, I **designed and programmed a website** that would allow anyone, anywhere, to use a web browser to search and view this content. The site was made public in early 1999, as described in our [*Spring 1999 Society newsletter*](#).

The next several years saw the members of the Board **working diligently to expand our collection of historical artifacts and documents**, while realizing our goals of digitizing and enhanced dissemination. Board member Win Keller launched a project of **interviewing longtime residents**; researchers on the Board, notably DeMaria, Pat Mooney, and Terry Smith, searched resources at the Columbus Metropolitan Library and the Ohio Historical Society (and many other locations) to **uncover historical references to the community**; DeMaria started a sub-collection called "**New Discoveries**" focused on found material, that were featured on the website; Tom and I made multiple presentations to community members and organizations using this new digital collection; and, we made good headway with the task of scanning and storing our existing collection.

Our activities sparked **interest from a reporter for the *Tri-Village News*** (later called *Grandview ThisWeek*), Alan Froman, who covered the Grandview and Marble Cliff communities for many years. He was very happy with the

increased availability of material for articles he wrote. In late 2003, Froman expressed interest in how he could publicize our online activities on a continuing basis, particularly the “New Discoveries” effort. I suggested I could write an occasional article for his paper, featuring an image from our collection along with a short paragraph that would provide historical context. He took the idea to his editor, who was excited about it. They suggested that the paper would reserve space every week for our article beginning in early spring.

On March 29, 2004, our *first article* was published, featuring the home of early Grandview resident Julius Stone, which had been razed to develop Stonegate Village at the top of the hill on Westwood Avenue. We chose to call the weekly article *Moment In Time*, or *MIT* (photo to the right is from the first *MIT*). Over the next eight years or so, the *MIT* was the research and writing effort of myself and Tom DeMaria. We published continuously every week. In the early 2010s, Win Keller, Sally Kosnik, and other Board members also contributed content.



Sometime after the *Columbus Dispatch*, who owned the *ThisWeek* neighborhood newspapers, sold to the New Media Investment Group, the paper “co-opted” our *Moment in Time* name and started publishing greater Columbus articles under the heading, so we retitled ours as *Grandview Moment in Time*.

Over the years the *MIT* articles focused on historic Tri-Village houses, local government buildings, schools, and churches, as well as influential people, businesses, and organizations. We featured local activities and traditions, and world events that influenced our communities. We honored local luminaries that passed away, including several from our own board.

Early in 2021, the Society joined efforts with the Grandview Heights Public Library to archive the *MITs* and other material in a collection overseen by the library, which is accessible from both the [Society website](#) and the [library website](#). Soon after, we moved from a weekly to a biweekly article schedule.

Now, after 19 years of continuous *MIT* publications in *Grandview ThisWeek News*, the newspaper is ceasing publication. The *MIT* will likely continue on an occasional basis on our website and Facebook page."

Help the Society Prepare for a 50th Anniversary Celebration

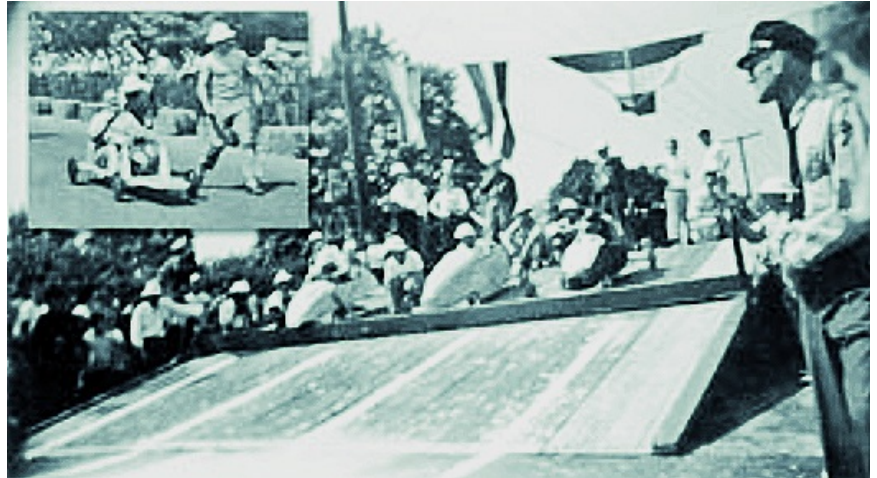
In 2024, the Society will acknowledge its 50th Anniversary. The Board is looking for volunteers to be part of a celebration planning committee that is headed by Society Trustee Teri Williams. The committee will come together in 2023 to create a plan for the Society's golden anniversary. If you are

interested in participating, please e-mail the Society at ghmchs@gmail.com with your name and contact information.

A Moment In Time Revisited

Soapbox Derby

The **All-American Soapbox Derby** began in **1933** in Dayton as a local race. It was expanded to a national competition the next year and moved to Akron in 1935. Over the years local races were held in U.S. and foreign cities to determine the final group of racers that would compete



at Akron's Derby Downs, which was built in 1936 as a WPA project and remains the home of the final competition. This photograph shows the **1955 Columbus finals**, which were **for many years held on the Grandview Avenue hill from Mulford Road to Goodale Boulevard**. Competitors were kids in the 9-15 age range, and the cars had to be constructed by the kids themselves. They ran in heats of three over the nearly 1000 feet course. In 1950, the race started a tradition of an adult celebrity race, called the Oil Can Trophy Race. **The inset shows Grandview's Mayor Joseph Wyman completing his heat, which won him a second-place trophy.**

Moment in Time - reprint from September 7, 2005

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

We Want You...

To Join the Society Board

Want to learn more about Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff and **help preserve our communities' heritage?** The Society is seeking a **Society member** to fill one unexpired Trustee term.

Responsibilities of a Trustee include:

- attending a monthly Board meeting
- assisting with Society events
- leading one Society activity/effort
- promoting the Society's mission.

An in-depth knowledge of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff history is not essential; however, an interest in **learning about our communities' history** is important. Preferred skills include marketing, event planning and coordination, and/or membership management. Computer proficiency is required. Trustees receive no compensation and **serve a three-year term** that can be renewed.

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee, please send an expression of



interest, contact information, and a short summary of your skills and background to Kent Studebaker, President, at ghmchs@gmail.com by March 31, 2023.

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.



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