



# ViewPoints



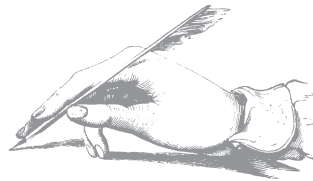
November 2003

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

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Society Members and Friends,

*The wind is whipping at my windows as I write to you, and winter is nearly upon us. I hope all of you will enjoy your time with family and friends during the holidays. It is always magical to see Grandview's homes and businesses lit with holiday cheer!*

*It was wonderful to see those of you who were able to attend our annual meeting in September. Our featured speaker was Mary Ann Brown, from Adena, Thomas Worthington's historic home. What a wonderful lesson in home restoration and history! We also welcomed Grant Douglass of the Ohio Historical Society Board, and Carmelita Boyer of the Ohio Bicentennial Commission, to help us wrap up our Ohio Bicentennial events.*

The GH/MCHS Board lineup for 2003-2004 is:

President:	Tracy Liberatore
Vice President:	Mary Burkey
Secretary:	Terry Smith
Treasurer:	Tom DeMaria
Board members:	Wayne Carlson, Maureen Damiani Ruthanne James, Sally Kosnik Joe Miller, Patrick Mooney

*Many thanks to former treasurer JoAnn Curry, who is leaving the board, but will be working with the board on many future projects. A hearty welcome to new board member Maureen Damiani, whose considerable experience in local and state affairs will be a great asset.*

*Collection and digitizing of historical information continues. We have obtained more property abstracts for our files. If you hear of any properties changing hands, we would love to be able to copy abstracts as they become available during ownership transfers! If you do happen to find information, photographs or artifacts available, please contact any of our board members. We would appreciate hearing from you.*

*We are beginning to plan our Mothers' Day 2004 Home Tour. An interesting variety of homes will be scheduled for visiting. Their stories will be shared with neighbors and fellow historians. This is our largest project and we can always use extra hands. Please call any of our board members if you can be of any help, small or large. It is sure to be a fun day!*

*As always, I am here for any questions or comments. Feel free to email me at [TPENNL@AOL.COM](mailto:TPENNL@AOL.COM)!*

Sincerely,  
Tracy Liberatore, President

*The Development of Grandview Heights East of Grandview Avenue (Part Three)*

## GRANDVIEW GIVEN PRAISE IN UNIQUE SURVEY OF ASSETS



*Fifteenth Avenue Resident Becomes "Sold" on Village When Shown Advantages*



## SCHOOLS ATTRACT



*Churches, Clubs, New Theater and Community Spirit Prove Strong Talking Points*

"Why is it that everyone you meet from Grandview is just bubbling over with enthusiasm?" asked a Fifteenth Avenue resident of a Grandview citizen the other day.

The Grandview citizen gazed long and sorrowfully at the Fifteenth Avenue resident and then said: "Evidently you have never been in our community, so come, if you have time, and I shall open your eyes for they have become clouded and besmirched with the dust and narrowness of the city. Come and I shall show you a community whose harmonious spirit is known far and wide, where people of broad and tolerant minds and healthy bodies dwell.

"I shall show you a village of beautiful homes, of perfect schools, of beautiful parks and playgrounds, of churches whose work has almost



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**GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL**

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## The Development of Grandview Heights East of Grandview Avenue (Part Three)

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become a byword throughout the state and of country clubs that are at our door—all this but a scant few minutes from the heart of Columbus. I ask that you only come and see.”

So the citizen of Grandview led the Fifteenth avenue resident to a high knoll near Grandview and they sat themselves under a towering elm and watched the sunset glow and sink in the distant sky. The village spread out before them, lights flickering here and there, children playing in the wooded parks. A feeling of peace and contentment filled the air.

### VILLAGE SPIRIT EXTOLLED

Then the Grandview citizen began: “First, my friend, you must understand community spirit—for which Grandview is noted. It grew out of the unique way in which this village originated. Separated from the rest of Columbus by the almost impassable barriers of the Olentangy and Scioto Rivers, the original inhabitants were forced to work together to obtain such things as bridges across the rivers, street cars, improved roads and the things which go to make up a modern community. Thus there has come to be a friendly spirit of cooperation. And this has increased as the years came along.

Each year various streets would compete for prizes in a gigantic field day parade. Through many such social affairs the different parts of the village were cemented until it came to be that a man living on Timberman road in the extreme eastern part of the village called a resident of Lincoln road, two miles west of him, by the magic term of neighbor. And...”

“Ah, yes that is all well and good, my Grandview friend,” the Fifteenth avenue resident interrupted, “but I am practical minded. What is back of your community? Spirit is splendid in its place, but I want to know of your tangible things.”

### SCHOOL STANDING SHOWN

“And that you shall,” the Grandview citizen smiled pleasantly. “First, our schools. Our buildings, three in number, and equipment are worth more than \$600,000. The Robert Louis Stevenson building is just being completed at a cost of approximately \$150,000. Our teachers are highly trained and a very large proportion of the pupils enter college.

“The Grandview Parent-Teacher association is the largest in Ohio and has been a pioneer in the work of entering healthy children into the schools. Our system has received the praise of nationally known educators.

“Closely allied with this is our system of parks and playgrounds which is supervised by a capable commission headed by C. K. Siebert. We have three beautiful parks, the largest of which contains 22 acres. The one opposite our new school building is equipped with tennis courts, baseball diamonds and considerable playground apparatus. When you consider that one-fourth of our population goes to school in the community you will see why we have taken such precautions to insure a healthy atmosphere, both mentally and physically.

### CHURCHES NUMBER FOUR

Then the Grandview citizen took the Fifteenth avenue resident again into his machine and showed him the churches. The

First Community, Our Lady of Victory, the Grandview Methodist Episcopal and the Boulevard Presbyterian—four well-organized institutions, representing an investment of more than \$500,000, whose work in the community has attracted attention even outside the state. The country clubs [sic: golf courses], within a few minutes ride of the center of Grandview—the Upper Arlington, the Scioto, the Arlington, the Dublin Road and the Municipal, were also visited. Then the new \$75,000 Grandview theater was shown.

“And what of your government?” the Fifteenth avenue resident asked. “For nine years John Ryder has been mayor of the village and our council is constantly working for the improvement of the community,” the Grandview citizen said. “Even now we have a program of approximately \$100,000 underway or contemplated in the eastern end of the village—it will mean the paving of the last of unimproved highways within our boundaries.

“And just a final word: Grandview is ideally located on high wooded knolls that command distinctive views of the city. Near the city’s business section, it nevertheless has all the charm and advantages found in the suburbs. It is underlaid by 40 feet of gravel and the drainage is perfect. Prevailing north and westerly winds blow the smoke and dirt of the city’s factories and railroads away from the community. And cool breezes that never find their way to lower places blow across the high plateau, giving solid comfort in summer. We have everything in our 4000 population that you have in the city, but we also possess that one feature which you can never experience there—the joy of living in the open, the freedom from worry and care that suburban life brings.”

And that is what the former Fifteenth avenue resident learned several months ago, from his Grandview friend—former, because he now lives in Grandview.

*This article is reprinted from “Development in Upper Arlington and Grandview”, a special 12-page section of The Columbus Sunday Dispatch, June 27, 1926. The section was a promotion sponsored primarily by The Upper Arlington Company, The Northwest Boulevard Company and E. Ray Evans Homes, but included many other advertisers.*

*A boxed page one item lists 18 new Grandview homes “open for inspection” on Gladden Road, Parkway North, West Second Avenue, Norton Avenue, Holly Avenue, Eastview Avenue, Northwest Boulevard, West First Avenue and Thomas Road. An article states that the original Northwest Boulevard Company property of 45 acres now contains 700 homes. The original Northwest Boulevard plats were filed in November 1916 and February 1917 by Ben S. Thompson, President, and King G. Thompson, Secretary.*

## TOUR OF HOMES 2004

Mark your new calendar for Sunday May 9, 2004 (Mothers’ Day). Plans are underway for this always popular triennial GH/MCHS event. Site selection is complete and research has begun on a quintet of interesting homes east and west of Grandview Avenue. The February 2004 Viewpoints will include a list of sites and more information.





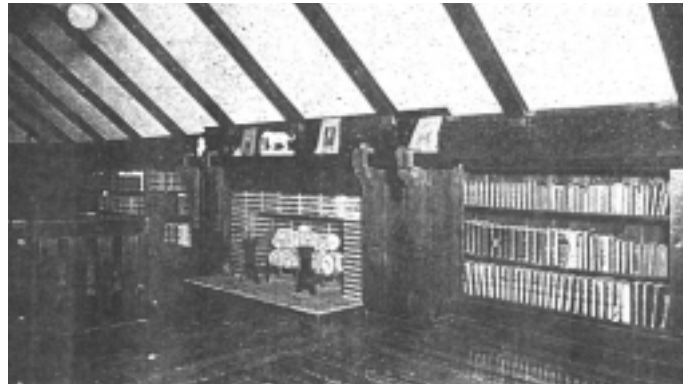
# NEW DISCOVERIES: ARTS AND CRAFTS INTERIORS IN GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS CIRCA 1910

by Tom DeMaria

I was fascinated recently with several interior pictures of two circa-1910 Grandview homes unearthed by board member Terry Smith while doing research at the Ohio Historical Society. Interior photographs from local homes are rare in our collection and these were particularly intriguing in that both were decorated in the rather Spartan but highly popular Arts and Crafts style. This new style of design was all the rage from the latter 19th Century until World War I. The Arts and Crafts Movement was founded in Great Britain by William Morris and championed in this country by Gustav Stickley and others. The movement was characterized by its promotion of "simplicity, good craftsmanship, and good design." It was a reaction to Victorian and Edwardian excesses and the mass production brought on by the Industrial Age.

For those who watch the "Antiques Road Show," Arts and Crafts artists and styles would include Stickley, Roycrofters, Mission (aka Craftsman), quarter-sawn and fumed oak furniture, Rookwood pottery, and hand wrought metal objects. Proponents of the Arts and Crafts style sought to bring about the demise of the stuffy parlor, heavily carved furniture, clutter, and elaborate wallpapers. Instead, it promoted the novel idea of a "living room" and library as a place for the family to gather with simple furnishings, built-in shelves, and bookcases. The library table in the GH/MCHS room in Grandview Heights Public Library is a fine example of Arts and Crafts style furniture, although it is a Grand Rapids Furniture company interpretation of a custom-built piece.

The three photographs (right and below) are from the January 1910 "Ohio Builder and Architect" and show interior views of the residence of Herbert Page. (See Winter 2002 Viewpoints for more information about this home at 1122 Fairview, currently owned by the Cabot family.) Note the sparsely furnished living room (below) with Mission Style oak furniture, hardwood floors, painted walls, and oriental scatter rugs. Although this furniture was hand-crafted and very expensive, the sparseness of the decor was dictated presumably by Arts and Crafts philosophy rather than Mr. Page's pocketbook. (He was a successful lawyer.) Note too that what local lore has always presumed was a "ball room" (top right) on the third floor was actually designated as Mr. Page's "den" in the original caption. Libraries with built-in shelves and large stone fireplaces were also a key feature of Arts and Crafts design.



The Fred Howell home at 1110 Broadview was decorated in the same fashion, as depicted in the circa 1910 postcard (below) that Adrienne Frame Howell sent to her brother.

Although the Arts and Crafts legacy remains in the architecture of homes throughout Grandview Heights, what was once a very avant-garde style of interior decorating fell out of fashion by the end of World War I. It has enjoyed a renaissance in the past 15 years. Some of the individual pieces of furnishings in Mr. Page's living room and den could be worth tens of thousands of dollars each on today's market.





## BECOME A MEMBER

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Cliff Historical Society!*

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Contact Editor Patrick Mooney  
(279-6665) for any interesting article  
ideas or to discuss photo contributions.

### *Reminder to Annual Members*

Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff  
Historical Society membership  
year runs from October through  
the following September. The  
mailing label on this newsletter  
shows the expiration date  
of your membership. Your  
continued support is solicited  
and very much appreciated.

## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

New GH/MCHS board member Maureen Damiani has a long record of public service, both in Grandview Heights and for the State of Ohio. Operations director for the Ohio Bicentennial Commission since its inception in 1996, she previously served 10 years as administrative aide to the Ohio Senate minority leader. Damiani has devoted many years to Grandview Heights Public Schools, both as employee and parent volunteer, including 12 years as a teaching aide at R. L. Stevenson School, and is a state-certified Education Technologist. She has extensive experience on state and local commissions and planning boards and committees. Damiani completed the Ohio Municipal League's Leadership Training Academy in 2002. In addition, she has earned certificates from The John Glenn Institute for Public Service & Public Policy, the Ohio Fire Academy, The Interprofessional Commission of Ohio, and the Federal Emergency Management Company. She holds a B.A. cum laude in Political Science from The Ohio State University with a specialization in American Studies.

A member of Grandview Heights City Council since 1992, Maureen served as president for 4 years and has chaired or served on all of its committees. She is a longtime proponent of community-wide recycling. Mrs. Damiani has extensive experience on state and local commissions, planning boards, and committees.

Maureen and Gino Damiani have lived on Inglis Avenue for 40 of the 43 years they have been married. Their two sons graduated from Grandview Heights High School and OSU. Lui is Executive Assistant to a county commissioner in Orlando and plans to run for that position in 2004. Paul is director of a research and development company for Nokia Wireless Communications in Beijing, China.

Maureen looks forward to devoting time and energy to GH/MCHS programs and research. The history and culture of this community is of particular interest to her.

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The Grandview  
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