



# ViewPoints



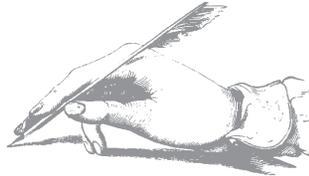
May 2005

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AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Fellow Members,

We welcome spring as it has finally arrived! I do not remember that there was ever a time that I had snow piled atop my lilacs in full bloom! The recent warmer weather has brought our residents out on evening walks, bike rides, and dinners al fresco.

Grandview Avenue has been busy with customers, and once again it is wonderful to see the Bank Block humming with visitors from all over central Ohio.

Your Board has been working on its usual ongoing projects, such as our website: [www.ghmchs.org](http://www.ghmchs.org) (Have you visited lately?), cataloguing incoming donations of memorabilia - which have been quite voluminous - and answering requests for information. We have also attended many of the St. Raphael/Bush House meetings in Marble Cliff to keep abreast of what will happen with that property.

The City of Grandview Heights and the Village of Marble Cliff continue to be strong supporters of the work of the Society! We appreciate the contributions of local government to our work of preserving and communicating local history.

Our newest and most exciting project of the year is a new publication, which should be available sometime in the summer. Without spoiling the surprise, I will say only that it contains many previously unpublished images, and is surely our finest publication yet. **Stay tuned!**

We welcome new life members Brian and Sally Kriska and Daniel and Mary Clare Evans.

Thanks for your support!

I welcome any questions, comments, or ideas from any of you. If you can contribute in any way to our work, we would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,  
Tracy Liberatore, President

## 98+ AND COUNTING!

Grandview Heights will celebrate the centennial of its incorporation in the spring of 2006. GHMCHS will, of course, be a participant in 100th anniversary events. In the meantime, we publish here a 'snapshot' of Grandview Heights, prepared for a proposed but never completed 2003 "Book of Franklin County."

(concluded, from Viewpoints, November 2004)

The earliest church presence in the community was the Methodist, in the early years at West Fifth and Star, later on Ashland Avenue near West First Avenue, and now Trinity Methodist Church in Marble Cliff. The early Congregational Church of the area became, in 1919, one of the first community churches in America, and is now First Community Church, on Cambridge Boulevard in Marble Cliff. The first Catholic church in northwest Franklin County was Our Lady of Victory Church in Marble Cliff, which from its 1922 establishment served the Catholic population of the entire Tri-Village Community until 1948, when St. Christopher Church on Grandview Avenue was founded. The fourth church in the area was Boulevard Presbyterian Church, founded in 1923.

Local publishing began in the Tri-Village area in 1917 with *The Norwester*, a monthly small-format magazine of the Upper Arlington and Northwest Boulevard Companies. *The Norwester* was followed in 1922 by *The Community News*, a weekly newspaper produced at the Community Church by a cadre of local volunteers. *The Community News* was supplanted in 1930 by *The Tri-Village News*, a commercial weekly newspaper published for many years out of its building on Grandview Avenue, and now part of Suburban News Publications, under its original name.



This issue sponsored by

**THE VILLAGE OF MARBLE CLIFF**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



98+ AND COUNTING! *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Grandview Heights experienced the challenges of the Great Depression and World War II along with the rest of central Ohio and the nation. Post-war development brought new vitality to the community and the "baby boom" brought unprecedented growth to the schools. By 1970 Grandview Heights population had peaked at more than 8400. Since 1980 both total population and school enrolment have lessened and appear to have stabilized.

A publication of 1954 states:

*"At the present time Grandview Heights rests between an old metropolis and a fantastically growing youngster [Upper Arlington]. There are less than 50 home sites remaining within the corporation limits and these areas may never be utilized for that purpose. Grandview Heights could be called a placid, pleasant place to live; where there are more homes than houses, and where most people are more interested in making a life than a living."*

Grandview Heights in 2003. Due to its longtime history as a high quality of life residential community, including a school system generally perceived as superior, and its proximity to the center of the Columbus Metropolitan Area, Grandview Heights has not only maintained its position, but is currently experiencing significant redevelopment.

The late 1980s and 1990s saw the revitalization of the business district along Grandview Avenue, including the Bank

Block, as a popular entertainment area, which draws diners, shoppers and movie-goers from all of Columbus. New residential building is taking place, new and renovated commercial space has become available, and significant residential and commercial development is occurring in nearby areas outside Grandview Heights corporation limits. A September, 2002 county-wide study reported that Grandview Heights has enjoyed by far the greatest and most rapid increase in real estate tax valuation in Franklin County. The opening of Lennox Town Center, the nearby construction of large apartment complexes, the soon-to-be-completed Route 315/Interstate 670 interchange, the development of the Arena District and River West in downtown Columbus, and the removal of the low-lying area of Grandview from flood plain designation are all factors which will affect the community in the first decade of the 21st Century and beyond.

As Grandview Heights approaches the centennial of its incorporation in 2006, it continues its story as a small, leafy, pedestrian-friendly suburban community. Grandview residents experience a strong sense of place, appreciate the closeness of city government and services, and value the excellence of their schools and library, their significant parkland, playgrounds and community garden, senior center, churches and community organizations. At the same time, they enjoy the position of being the suburb nearest the center of the Columbus Metropolitan Area.

## ADDENDA: AS WE WERE!

### Trustees Order Election to Decide Upon Incorporation of Grand View Heights

*I*t was decided at a meeting of the trustees of Franklin township yesterday that an election be called for Jan. 15 to determine whether or not a district just west of the city, known as Grandview Heights, shall be detached from the township and incorporated as a village. A majority of the residents, of whom there are said to be nearly 500, will decide...

The district, comprising a territory from Avondale west to the end of a tier of lots west of Paul Avenue [Ed: Lincoln Road] and from Third Avenue to the Panhandle Railroad tracks, is one which was decided upon as a valuable addition to the city in the plans of the new administration...

When a village is formed under the law there is required a majority of the electors before the corporation can be dissolved. If the movement on foot is successful, it may have the effect, it is said, of putting a big stumbling block in the way of annexing contiguous territory to Columbus.

*(Ohio State Journal (Columbus) January 5, 1906, p. 5*

### VILLAGE WOMEN AVOID THE POLLS

*No Votes Cast by Them in First Election of New Corporation, Grandview*

The feature of the special election of village officers of Grandview yesterday was that not a single woman voted...

Woman suffrage is not popular among Grandview ladies. The turnout was small, the total vote being only 34.

There was a contest for only one office, village marshal. Frank Butterworth was declared elected. He declared last evening that his election was not a joke in any sense. He did say, however, that he didn't know whether he would accept or not.

*(Ohio State Journal, Columbus, May 2, 1906)*



by Tom DeMaria

# NEW DISCOVERIES

## "Injuns" and the "Herschler Mound"

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eriodically new information prompts a need to revisit past questions or issues and such is the case this month. Mention has been made of an Indian mound that supposedly existed on the terrace where the Grandview Heights municipal building sits today. The question was raised during the 1998 annual meeting by mound builder expert and author Don Gelbach and again during my interview with GHHS 1926 graduate Frances Nesbit Weingartner (see *Viewpoints* Fall 2002). Frances lived right across the street from the municipal building.



Even after nearly seventy years Frances still complained how "her mound" was destroyed when the municipal building was built in 1924. New information has prompted us to explore this question further and now allows us to state that there definitely was a mound where the municipal building is located.

We are indebted to the GHHS staff and journalism class who dedicated the 1930 *Highlander* "To Those Uncorrupted Redmen Who Led Their Free and Artless Lives in the Forests of Our State." Board member Terry Smith recently discovered, hidden among the pages of this Native American-themed GHHS yearbook, a narrative by graduate Dale Herschler, titled "Injuns", wherein Dale recounts an adventure he had as a first grader in 1917. Who would have thought that this story penned seventy-five years ago would help us establish that, yes, indeed, there was a mound in front of where the municipal building sits today. Dale (pictured above) recounts how, in the summer of 1917, fellow classmates Byron Droke and Pird Fox, "hurried down Grandview Avenue to the old Indian mound in front of where the fire house now stands..." While perhaps not politically correct by today's standards, this yearbook specifically focused on Native American designs, themes, and stereotypes. Two of the illustrations in the yearbook are reproduced to the right. The faculty are designated as sachems (chiefs); the students all have Indian nicknames. Interestingly, the swastika is used extensively throughout. This motif was primarily an Indian good luck symbol prior to its use by the Nazis years later.

Subsequent research has reinforced Dale's first person yearbook essay. Data from *Ancient Earthworks in Franklin County*, written by James Rodgers in 1892, indicate that a smaller mound, where the Grandview Heights municipal building stands, was explored by Mr. Pope, who owned and was the self-appointed caretaker of the famous Toepfner mound on Dublin Road just east of Grandview Avenue. The mound on

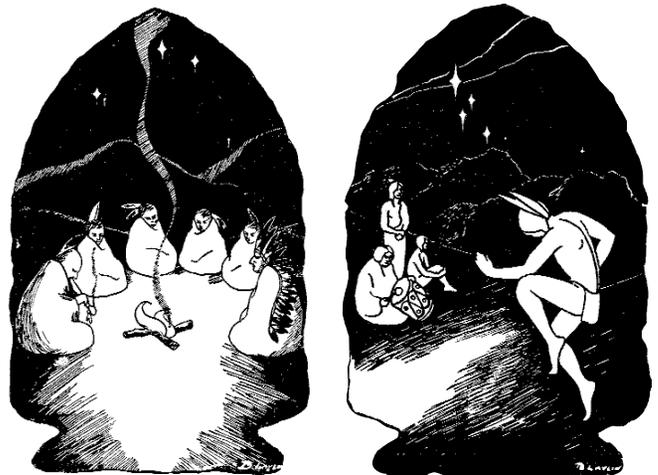
the municipal building site was described by Rodgers as being smaller than the Toepfner mound and about ten feet in height and possibly sixty-five feet in diameter at the base.

Mr. Pope exhumed from the upper levels of the mound five skeletons that "were placed in a sitting position." Our current understanding suggests that the use of this presumed Adena mound as a mortuary was highly unusual. Unfortunately, this fact was overlooked when the Toepfner mound was hurriedly excavated in 1954. The upper levels were bulldozed and approximately eighty-five burials and artifacts were obliterated.

One final convincing piece of evidence which indicates a mound being present at 1016 Grandview Avenue is a circa 1914 archaeological overview map of Franklin county based on William Mill's 1914 Archaeological Atlas of Ohio. It clearly shows the Toepfner mound near the tracks on Dublin Road and another slightly north of the location of the municipal building.

Peculiar isn't it, how things often converge? If it wasn't for his childhood recollections and "Injuns" essay written seventy-five years ago we may never have conclusively established that there was indeed a mound on the terrace of the river, just north of the Toepfner mound, where the municipal building was built in 1924. Somehow it seems appropriate that we acknowledge Dale's creative essay by referring to this vanished Grandview Heights mound as the "Herschler Mound."

*Special thanks to Terry Smith for helping research this article. For further information please see our website or email me at [tdemaria@columbus.rr.com](mailto:tdemaria@columbus.rr.com). The entire 1930 GHHS yearbook can be viewed online via [PhotOhio.org](http://PhotOhio.org) using the link on the Grandview Heights Public Library webpage. If anyone reading this has a picture of the mound or other recollections of anything mentioned in the article please*





## BECOME A MEMBER

*of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society!*

Please complete the information below and send with your check made out to: **GH/MC Historical Society**  
Mail or drop off at the **Grandview Heights Library,**  
**1685 West First Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212**

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## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

After almost 22 years in Grandview, **Karen Riggs** considers the community her second “hometown.” Her original “hometown” is Barrington, Illinois, a northwest suburb of Chicago. Karen graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in chemistry. She moved to Ohio upon graduation to accept a position with Battelle.

Karen is a research manager with Battelle (and loves the commute time from Grandview!) In addition to managing staff and laboratories within Battelle’s

Energy and Environment Division, she also manages several major government contracts, including a \$22M contract with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency for homeland security research.

Karen and her husband Mike have two children: Bryan, who is in 8th grade at GHMS, and Abby, who is in 4th grade at Edison Intermediate School. Karen has lived in several Grandview locations - including a Kramer Avenue apartment and a home she and her husband renovated on First Avenue; she and her family now live on Westwood Avenue. She has contributed to the GH/MCHistorical Society home tour, supported the Grandview Cycling Classic, and helps with her children’s school and sports activities. Karen also enjoys tennis, home tours, running, and reading.

*ViewPoints* is an occasional publication of the Grandview Heights/Marble 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.

*Please help! Volunteers are needed to assist in filing archival material. To contribute an hour of your time contact Patrick Mooney at 279-6665 or Terry Smith at 486-5198.*

