



# Ferncliff

**FALL**  
**NEWSLETTER**

October - December 2020

## Walking Around Ferncliff . . .

Everyday dozens of Springfield residents visit Ferncliff to walk among the tree lined, quiet roads. Recently, we chatted with some of them and wanted to share their thoughts with you.

Most of the people we spoke with are regular walkers, visiting at least 4-6 times a week. Some said they only visit once a month or a few times a year, and for one, this was their first time. Most said they vary their route every day, taking in both the hills and flat areas, but they all agree that peacefulness is the main attraction.

When asked why they choose Ferncliff over other locations, we received a wide range of responses, such as the peace and quiet, feeling safe, easy access and very little traffic, the range and diversity of routes, and of course, the trees – especially in the spring and fall.

Jan Williams liked that Ferncliff is “less crowded than Buck Creek.” People love the solitude and the shade, especially on a hot day. And several people commented on how nice and friendly our grounds staff are.

Most of the responders cited looking at the historical markers and the old family monuments as some of their favorite things to see on their walks. Nicole Hays said the most interesting thing she had seen on one of her walks was the process of digging a grave.

It was a pleasure talking with those who shared their Ferncliff walking experiences. Many shared advice for new walkers: “Come try it out, it’s very nice.” Almost all said, “Enjoy yourself.” Julie Hudson stated that walking here is “good for her body and her soul.” And finally, Quila Tyler shared her favorite reason for walking here at Ferncliff: “God meets me here.” What else is there to say?



**Our Mission:** Ferncliff serves its community with supportive, affordable, and inclusive end of life services in a beautiful, historic environment in perpetuity.

501 W. McCreight Ave. Springfield, OH 45504 | Phone: 937.322.3491 | Fax: 937.322.3452

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:00AM - 4:30PM | [ferncliffcemetery.org](http://ferncliffcemetery.org)

# Buck Creek Corridor Partnership

Ferncliff continues to work hard to create meaningful partnerships within the community. A recent example is a collaboration with the Springfield Conservancy District, in cooperation with the National Trail Parks and Recreation District to stabilize and improve the Buck Creek corridor that is shared by Ferncliff and these organizations.

The initiative will also result in the beautification of the space, enabling a visual connection between the parks and Ferncliff. As people walk, bike, or drive through the south end of Ferncliff or the eastern edge of beautiful Snyder Park, there will be a unified appearance that links two marvelous systems in the communities we serve.

## Ferncliff Mobile App

To meet our customers' expectations while trying to maintain a personal online experience, Ferncliff's website will soon have our own branded mobile app with interactive tools. This app will allow visitors the convenience of virtually touring landmarks, searching burial records for a loved one's location and navigating to the grave using GPS directions.

The mobile app will also include the option for families to browse an interactive map of available property listings, request an appointment with our family service staff, enjoy a 360 degree ground-level view of the beautiful cemetery grounds, and share memories and photos of loved ones to our website, creating a timeline of that person's life.

This enhancement will allow us to bring Ferncliff "virtually" to you and it should be complete before year end.



## Gate Hour Changes

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020. As the time changes, so do our gate hours:

**Winter gate hours go into effect on Sunday, November 3rd:**

**Main Gate 7:30 am – 5:00 pm**

**Lower Plum St. Gates 7:30 am to 4:30 pm**

*Note that gates may close earlier due to inclement weather.*

## Board of Trustees Elections

**At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, the following officers were elected:**

- Deborah Hill, president,
- Dr. Paul "Ski" Schanher, vice president,
- Chet Walthall, immediate past president,
- Dr. Richard Umbaugh, treasurer,
- David Martin, secretary, and
- Darrell Kitchen, assistant secretary

**Other Trustees include:**

Roger Evans, Dale Miller, Sheila Rice, and Reed Robertson.

# Events Update

It is with regret that we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel or postpone our upcoming fall events, in consideration of the COVID19 restrictions still recommended.

**The following events have been cancelled for 2020:**

Fall Trolley Tour • Mausoleum Crawl • Veteran's Day Service\*

**The following event has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date:**

United States Colored Troops Memorial Dedication

In collaboration with The Gammon House, the dedication of the United States Colored Troops memorial was originally scheduled for Memorial Day weekend. The memorial recognizes the service and lives of those men of color who served in the Civil War. Together, Ferncliff and the Gammon House both remain optimistic and hopeful that we will be able to celebrate this dedication in 2021. In the meantime, we have posted two videos of the monument and its installation this past spring, on our website: [ferncliffcemetery.org](http://ferncliffcemetery.org)



\*Visit our webpage Gallery or YouTube channel for current and upcoming videos, including virtual tours of the mausoleums throughout the next several months. Stay in touch with us and get news about the videos on our social media platforms:



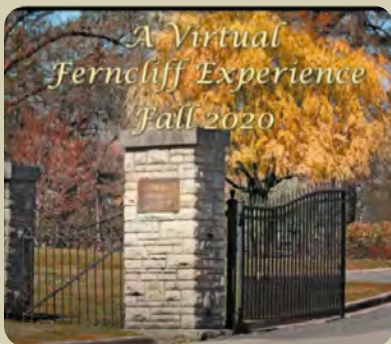
@FerncliffCemeteryArboretum



@FerncliffOhio



ferncliffcemeteryohio



## Visit our Ferncliff YouTube Channel

Over the next months we will be creating several virtual video experiences around Ferncliff's beauty, history, and news. Our first video, [Virtual Ferncliff Experience - Fall 2020](#), is available now. Search for Ferncliff Cemetery Experience from the main page or you can go directly to the video by typing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJM2WM4KoWk>

## Ferncliff Offices Closed

- Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020 in observance of Veterans Day
- Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020 for Thanksgiving. *Offices will be open on Friday.*
- Thursday Dec. 24 and Friday Dec. 25, 2020 so our employees may spend time with their families.
- Thursday Dec 31, 2020 and Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 for New Year's.



# Historical Series with Dr. Schanher

Dr. Paul W. "Ski" Schanher III has been a devoted member of the Springfield Cemetery Association and serves on the Board of Trustees. "Ski" is a prominent local dentist and is an active and respected member of the historical community in Springfield and Clark County.

**The article below is next in the series written by Dr. Schanher.**

## *Our Continuing Saga*

Following the 1795 Treaty of Greenville that opened the western Ohio country for settlement with little concern for Native American interference, settlers gradually began to inhabit the lands, especially in the western part of the Ohio Territory. The first white men known to have settled in modern-day Clark County were David Lowry and Jonathan Donnel who accompanied Israel Ludlow, who surveyed the Symmes Purchase "between the Miamis".

While Lowry and Donnel were in this area, they recognized the richness of the land and decided to return once their responsibilities with Ludlow came to an end. After returning to Cincinnati, the two men purchased parcels of land from owner, Patton Shorts. Once they returned to the area that they set aside for themselves, marked by a stream, the two men built their homes with nothing but an axe and an auger. They named the stream Donnel's Creek in the area of today's Donnelville. Donnel eventually left Lowry and settled beside rock quarries along Mad River near present-day Lower Valley Pike.

In 1796, after the Lowry and Donnel settlement, two more settlers named Kreb and Brown also arrived and built in the area.

As an aside, David Lowry lies resting in Ferncliff Cemetery, while Donnel's headstone resides in the Heritage Center's museum's collection.



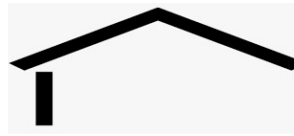
## Ferncliff Pet Cemetery and Services

September 13, 2020 was National Pet Memorial Day. In 2019, Ferncliff Pet Cemetery and Services observed the occasion with activities and a ceremony at the new pet cemetery on the 240-acre campus of Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions, a virtual observation of the event was used by many via social media. The presentation included a listing, by name, of all animal companions entrusted into Ferncliff's care upon their death.

Managed and operated by two Ohio licensed funeral directors, Ferncliff offers cremation, burial services, and products for the perpetual care and remembrance of your pets. Though not required, we also have available urns, caskets, burial vaults, and burial shrouds as well as custom designed granite and bronze monuments and markers.

To memorialize your pet, we have an intimate chapel in which private time or a ceremony may be held. We also offer graveside services for those who desire additional closure with their departed family member. Our easy to navigate website has a specific section for pet obituaries and death notices for others to see. Additionally, all of our pet-care services are available on a prearrangement basis allowing you to plan ahead and avoid unnecessary heartache at the time.

Call Ferncliff Pet Cemetery and Services today at (937) 207-0309 for a no cost, private consultation and tour of our beautiful, meticulously maintained grounds and chapel. You may also visit [www.FerncliffCemetery.org](http://www.FerncliffCemetery.org) for more information.



## A New Roof

The roof of the historic Ferncliff Office building and Chapel is scheduled to be replaced in November. In the same way that the pandemic response has delayed many projects, the seasonal hurricanes and fires could also alter the availability of materials. However, Ferncliff remains hopeful that this work can be completed before the winter season begins. This is a necessary project and will help preserve a very important, historic, and iconic building on the 240-acre cemetery grounds.



*Photo circa 1930's provided by the Turner Foundation Collection.*

## Monument and Marker Options

We believe choosing a memorial for yourself or a loved one is an opportunity to celebrate the life of the individual, and should be as unique as the person it represents. When you choose Ferncliff, we will help you evaluate the options and associated costs to decide on a memorial that is of the highest quality at the most competitive price. Options include:

- Bronze or Granite
- Upright Monuments or Flat Grass Markers
- Pillars, Benches, or other Cremation Memorials

Call us for information or to schedule an appointment





# Ferncliff

501 W. McCreight Ave.  
Springfield, OH 45504

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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## We want your photos!!

If you have a good shot you'd like to share, please feel free to post on our Facebook page, or better yet, send a jpeg image to [mknize@ferncliffcemetery.org](mailto:mknize@ferncliffcemetery.org).

Are you thinking about purchasing space at Ferncliff? Perhaps near a loved one? Call about availability of spaces in some of our older sections.

*"How beautifully leaves grow old.  
How full of light and color are their last days."  
- John Burroughs*