

INTERIM REPORT
For
The GRANT PROPOSAL
To
Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
August 21, 2023

*Preservation and Digitization of Historical Records at Fallen Timbers
Union Cemetery District*

Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District
651 Farnsworth Road
Waterville, Ohio
43566

Project Director: Kim Anderson, Waterville Township Trustee

The following is the interim report for the Preservation and Digitization of Historical Records at Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District. Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District (FTUCD) was formed in 2019 by consolidating the records and operations of five rural cemeteries, all with their own style and method of record keeping. Records needed to be organized, environmentally secure, and digitally preserved for future generations. FTUCD has historical records dating back to the 1800's; the area is a historical site from the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

- Organizing

Approximately 95% of the materials available have been organized. This has been a labor-intensive operation, as records had to be compiled from various sources prior to being catalogued chronologically. It was our original intent to digitize as we sorted, but the sheer volume of materials made that prohibitive. To our surprise, we found approximately 15 more cubic feet of documents were stashed in an attic, and these had to be integrated with documents already filed. Digitizing prior to being organized would not be beneficial.

Many of the documents were very fragile (see Attachment 1) and it was decided that the fewer people handling the documents, the better, so one person was assigned the task of compiling the burial permits. Not only does this help preserve the documents, but also provides consistency in how things are labeled and filed. This person logged her time and has currently logged 114 hours as a volunteer for this grant. (see Attachment 2).

- Expenses

Delays were encountered in ordering equipment. A government account had to be established so that the purchases were not taxed. Secondly, we were pursuing another grant that would have allowed us to re-surface the concrete floor of the office and we did not want to have to move heavy file cabinets around to accomplish this re-flooring. We did not get that grant, however, so some of the lesser-weight equipment has been ordered. Receipts for items purchased so far is attached. (see Attachment 3).

Instead of a horizontal long fireproof cabinet, our sexton asked permission to get a protected (lockable, fire resistant) gun cabinet so that the longer maps would not have to be folded in order to fit. They could be rolled and stored upright. Permission was granted from the Advisory Board, provided the expense did not exceed the grant amount. The sexton is researching gun cabinets to get an appropriate model.

- Schedule

Once the records are organized, we intend to get volunteers to do the scanning and digitization and anticipate that this operation will go faster than the organizing phase. In part, this will be the case as we will no longer be dealing with summer vacations and we will have more volunteers. We are limited, however, by accessibility to the cemetery office, given that the sexton and assistant are part-time. We do anticipate reaching our 80% goal by year's end.

- Miscellaneous

We have been commended by mayors of both Waterville and Whitehouse for our efforts to clean up, organize and digitize cemetery records. The local newspaper did a (front page!) article on our project (see Attachment 4).

We are committed to completing this project. This grant provides us the opportunity to protect and preserve historical documents, and organize them in a cohesive manner so that access will (eventually) be efficient, accurate, and beneficial to those seeking such information.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Anderson
Waterville Township Trustee

NAME OF DECEASED <u>Grayson</u>		PERMIT NO. <u>1489</u>	
AGE	PLA	DATE OF DEATH <u>8-14-</u>	
VILLAGE OR CITY <u>Manatee</u>		COUNTY <u>Lucas</u>	
CAUSE OF DEATH <u>Respiratory Failure</u>			
MANNER AND PLACE OF DISPOSAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BURIAL		<input type="checkbox"/> CREMATION <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	
NAME OF CEMETERY <u>Waterville Twp. Cem.</u>		SPECIFY COUNTY <u>Lucas</u>	
A SATISFACTORY CERTIFICATE OF DEATH OR PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH HAVING BEEN FILED AS REQUIRED BY THE LAWS OF THIS STATE, PERMISSION TO DISPOSE OF THE BODY AS INDICATED ABOVE, IS HEREBY GIVEN TO:			
FUNERAL DIRECTOR <u>Newell F. 16</u>		ADDRESS <u>505-2 DORRST</u>	
SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR <u>Robert E. Sigal</u>		REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. <u>48</u>	DATE OF ISSUE <u>AUG 15 1987</u>
for a period of (5) five years			



THE MIRROR

SERVING WATERVILLE, WHITEHOUSE & MONCLOVA SINCE 1990

Vol. 32, No. 19

Issue No. 1444

2 Sections - 32 Pages

\$1.25

May 11, 2023

Whitehouse Council Tables Chicken Discussion

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

Chickens have clucked into Whitehouse Village council conversations for the past few months, but the topic is going back into the coop until December – without a change in a long-standing ordinance that prohibits them.

During the May 2 meeting, council members presented their thoughts on allowing up to six hens in yards that meet guidelines outlined in a proposed ordinance. With council member Louann Artiga absent, a first reading appeared to be heading toward a 3-2 vote in favor until council member Steve Connelly proposed tabling the topic.

"I feel like it's distracting us from the bigger issue of the income tax," Connelly said after listening to several arguments for and against chickens. "I support it, but I'm in favor of tabling it. We need to talk about the tax and where do we go from here. That's more important."

Mindy Curry, who has floated the idea of chickens several times during her tenure on council, opposed tabling the topic, but Rich

Bingham, Rebecca Conklin Kleiborn, Bob Krogh and Connelly voted for putting the topic on hold until after the Tuesday, November 7

election – when voters will decide whether to approve a .5 percent income tax increase to help bolster the General Fund.



Whitehouse Third-Graders Celebrate Arbor Day

Whitehouse Primary School and the Whitehouse Tree Commission teamed up on May 8 to mark Arbor Day with the reading of a proclamation and the planting of three trees near the school. First Energy employee Richard Guss (right) watches as Evelyn Nielson hoists a shovelful of dirt to put in around a shingle oak tree.

MIRROR PHOTO BY KAREN GERHARDINGER

An income tax committee is planning on hosting informational meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month until the election, beginning in June.

One other recurring topic, garbage can receptacle placement, also dominated the meeting's conversation, with arguments both for and against changing an ordinance that requires the bins to be placed out of sight behind the front line of the home.

Curry argued that not everyone can afford to put up a fence to screen the bins, and that some homes – especially on corner lots – make it difficult to place the bins out of sight. She also noted that it would take away too much valuable staff time monitoring compliance. The ordinance also contains a requirement that bins be moved away from the street by the end of collection day. That section was also discussed, and a process that also takes staff

(continued on page 6)

GENERALLY SPEAKING

Cleanup Planned In Waterville

A community cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the fields surrounding Waterville Landing.

Volunteers should meet in the Kroger parking lot, 8730 Waterville Swanton Rd., Waterville, in front of Biggby, 1075 Pray Blvd., Waterville, at 10:00 a.m.

AWLS Art Show Set On Saturday

The Anthony Wayne District Art Show, featuring artwork from students in grades 3-12, will be held on Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Dick Albright Sports Complex at Anthony Wayne High School, 2967 Pinel Rd., Whitehouse.

Community Engagement class will be collecting gently used Generals clothing from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Whitehouse Park Hosts Concerts

Whitehouse Concerts in the Park will be held (continued on page 6)

District Cares For The Departed While Preserving Area's History

BY KAREN GERHARDINGER
MIRROR REPORTER

Rory Hartbarger is watching for buds to appear on a giant oak tree that shades the area where the community will gather for a Memorial Day ceremony at Wakeman Cemetery.

"If it doesn't bud out, we'll have to take it down," said Hartbarger, who is the sexton for the Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District (FTUCD). He's watched over the past few months as a hollowed-out area has become stuffed with items that an industrious squirrel has dragged in from nearby graves – including a University of Michigan flag.

Hartbarger and assistant sexton/maintenance worker Troy DeWitt have seen it all: deer giving birth to triplets and twins, and owls, foxes and squirrels. It's the people they care for the most, however, as they help families through the burial and memorial process in a manner that is respectful and empathetic.

"When someone has lost their loved one, they often are asked to make decisions while they're grieving. We

try to help them through that," Hartbarger said. "We have laid these people to rest and it's so peaceful here. It's a place where people come to remember a loved one and reflect."

The FTUCD, formed in 2019, oversees the care of five cemeteries, including the 17-acre Wakeman and the 9-acre Whitehouse Cemetery, along with three

closed burial grounds: the 1852 Mennonite Cemetery, the tiny Winslow Cemetery and Rupp Cemetery, which has the remains of Whitehouse's earliest residents.

On May 8, representatives from Waterville, Whitehouse and Waterville Township met with the district's board of trustees as part of its annual meeting to

go over the budget and set the inside millage rate, which will remain at .46 mills. For the owner of a \$300,000 home, that equates to about \$138 a year.

While families pay \$800 to \$1,000 for a plot of land, it's the community investment that covers the cost of maintaining the properties and preserving history for current and future genera-

tions, Hartbarger said.

Sitting inside the FTUCD headquarters at Wakeman Cemetery last week, Hartbarger, DeWitt and Waterville Township trustee Kim Anderson gingerly picked up plot maps for three of the cemeteries. On the table were books dating back to the 1800s, filled with cemetery records – interment journals and an alphabetical log of the names of the deceased, the plot owners, dates and locations of the burials.

Recently, Anderson obtained a \$4,600 grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board that will help preserve and digitize the maps, burial cards and record books. As a matching grant, the district is expected to come up with up to \$5,000 as well, but that could be in the form of volunteer hours, which Anderson expects to provide herself.

"At this point, I'm the volunteer, because too many cooks spoil the broth. Once all the records are organized, we can bring in other people who can scan and keep the records up," she said.

(continued on page 6)

Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District sexton Rory Hartbarger, trustee Kim Anderson and assistant sexton/maintenance worker Troy DeWitt show some of the maps and books that will be preserved and digitized as part of a project funded by a grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board.

MIRROR PHOTO BY KAREN GERHARDINGER

r002

KIM D ANDERSON
10918 SPRINGBROOK CT
WHITEHOUSE OH 43571-9674

sku 203608



8 08805 93253