

News Release—Learn Local History on a Cemetery Walking Tour

Take a leisurely stroll through Massillon Cemetery at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, to learn about the history of the community. Memorial Day flowers and flags will enhance the gentle wooded hills of the cemetery, which was designed in the 1840s.

Massillon Cemetery is located at 1827 South Erie Street in Massillon, just south of the Oberlin Road exit from Ohio Route 21.

Participants should meet at the cemetery entrance. Cemetery parking is limited, but ample free parking is available on both sides of South Erie Street. Reservations are not necessary; the \$5 fee may be paid at the beginning of the tour.

Local historian Margy Vogt, representing Massillon/Westark Tourism Council, will lead the walk, which lasts about two hours.

In case of inclement weather, the tour will be cancelled. Additional cemetery tours will be held this season on Sunday, July 20 and Saturday, August 9, all at 1:00 p.m.

Mrs. Vogt will talk about the history of the cemetery and the National Register residence. She will highlight many of the individuals whose monuments stand for the contributions they made to Massillon's history. Walkers will see markers for inventors Joseph Davenport, Abel Fletcher, and Andrew Jay Cross; industrialists of the Russell, McClymonds, and Hess families; philanthropists Wright Walker, James F. Pocock, and George Harsh; and political leaders Jacob Coxey, Samuel Pease, and Robert Folger.

The monuments themselves are interesting to view. Some are thin illegible tablets from the mid-1800s, some are elaborately sculpted markers, others are statues. About a dozen mausoleums add architectural interest to the tour. Participants can learn about the Civil War statue and three of Massillon's Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

A Massillon Cemetery booklet will be available for purchase for \$3 with all proceeds donated to RezzzyFest. It contains cemetery history, a map of the grounds, and photographs and information about more than 60 people who made their mark on Massillon.

Vogt's other books, *Towpath to Towpath* and *Fourth Street: A Century of History and Design*, will also be available.

For more information about cemetery, Fourth Street, and historic downtown tours, contact Margy Vogt at 330-832-8469 or vogt@sssnet.com.

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