



Brian Foos of
Foos & Foos Funeral Services
and the
Bellevue Historical Society
present our 5th Annual

Bellevue Cemetery Walk

September 29, 2022

History of the Tremont House, Western Reserve, Firelands, and Bellevue Indian Mound

The Tremont House was built by Loel Chandler as the largest three-story brick building in the area in 1846. It was at the end of civilization and was located at the Southwest corner of the Firelands. Lands West of the Tremont House were called Oak Openings. This land was deeded to the Ohio Indian Tribes at the Treaty of Greenville. The building was named after the prominent Tremont House hotel in Boston and was first used as a hotel and stage stop. The second floor contained the lobby and rooms, and the third floor a ballroom. The railroad replaced the stagecoach and the building changed with the times. In addition to functioning as a Hotel, the building has functioned as: a restaurant, a grocery store, a cigar factory, real estate and other offices, a meeting site for the IOOF (International Order of Odd Fellows), the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company store, the Green Front Grocery, and Leonard's Pharmacy. The Tremont House played an important role in the evolution of Bellevue and the Firelands. In 1867 Stephen Harkness, Henry Flagler (both one time Bellevue residents), and John D. Rockefeller, celebrated the signing of the contract that financed the start-up of The Standard Oil Company in the ballroom.

The Western Reserve: On September 13, 1786, Connecticut ceded to the United States all of the land lying West of a line parallel to, and one hundred twenty miles west from the west line of Pennsylvania (these were the Western boundaries of Huron and Erie Counties). This one hundred twenty mile strip was reserved from that concession of Connecticut and has been known ever since as "The Western Reserve."

The Firelands: In 1792, 500,000 acres of land was laid out for reparation to the people whose towns were burned down during British raids. This land, lying next to the west line of "The Western Reserve" (Huron and Erie Counties, or Huron County as first organized), is known as "the Firelands." Some of these raids were led by Benedict Arnold just after the Revolutionary War. The towns burned in Connecticut were Greenwich, Fairfield, Danbury, Ridgefield, Norwalk. Subsequently they named towns in the Firelands with the same names. The first settlers did not settle the prairies, thinking the soil was not suitable for farming, and settled on land with trees. The trees needed to be cleared before farming. It turns out the prairies had the best soil and was easily turned into farms.

Bellevue Indian Mound: This Indian Mound is located west of town behind the Anytime Fitness building on TR 296 (private property so please do not approach). This mound is consistent with an Erie Indian burial mound. The Erie Indians lived in the area until they were completely wiped out by the Iroquois Indians in the mid-16th century. This is a very old mound and is located on the edge of a large swamp.

Prominent Bellevue Business Leaders

Mark Hopkins and Family: The first settlers moved to Bellevue from Genesee, New York in 1815. There is a marker on East Main Street where their cabin was built. Jeannette Hopkins, the first birth, was born in the Spring of 1817. Her Mother, who died from a snake bite just 2 hours after giving birth to Jeannette, was the first death.

John & Charles Zehner: Zehner Brothers Packing opened in 1894 specializing in selling wholesale smoked & salted meats. In 1906 they opened Toledo Union Stockyard, which was the 2nd largest yard in the country. Toledo was perfectly situated between the major cities and Bellevue was in the center so cattle could be quickly received by rail at the packing plant. The family and packing plant remained in Bellevue until the 1970s.

Charles B. Gambee was born in Seneca County, New York on April 5, 1827 and was a dry goods merchant in Bellevue before the war. He was a Lt. Col. in the 55th Ohio Regiment and led his troops in most of the major battles of the Civil War. Battles were: Cross Keys, Cedar Mountain, Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wauhatchie, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge and Resaca. He was killed in the Battle of Resaca, Georgia on May 15, 1864. During this battle, the company lost all its officers. The large monument was purchased by his troops out of their respect for him. His wife, Rhoda (Peck) Gambee is buried nearby with just a simple marker.

Thomas Amsden: Thomas Amsden and Frederick Chapman opened the first store in 1823 at the corner of Main Street and Exchange Street (site of the former City Hall). In the beginning they dealt mostly with Indians. Along with Gurdon Williams, Frederick Chapman and L.G. Harkness, they “convinced” the railroad engineer/surveyor to curve the tracks through Amsden Corners instead of a taking a shorter straight line from Sandusky to Tiffin. When a post office was established, Amsden became the first Postmaster. Once they knew the railroad was coming, they quickly laid out the town in ¼ acre lots and gave away 18 lots for the railroad right-of-way. Each bought 20 shares of railroad stock. In “gratitude”, they named the town Bellevue after the engineer James Bell. Huge fortunes were made from this arrangement making several millionaires in town. At one time Bellevue had the most millionaires per capita in the country.

Amos Woodward: He owned a distillery which could produce 25,000 barrels of cider a season and then switch over to whiskey. He was instrumental in forming St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and founding a bank that eventually became First National Bank. Amos was quoted as saying “the most disastrous train wreck was when it had a cargo of wine & whiskey”. He built the Woodward building (on the corner of Exchange and Main Streets) very near the bank building. He died before construction was started. He intended for it to be a hotel, but his children had it finished as an office building. It has a very unique architecture, with a large “viewing area” on the top floor.

Dr. Lamon G. (L.G.) Harkness: He moved from Hopewell, New York in 1835 and opened a store. He sent word home to his nephew, Daniel Harkness, to help with the business. He was an investor in several businesses and partnered with Amsden in a distillery on Monroe Street. It was razed to allow the railroad to come into town. His daughter, Mary married Henry Flagler.

Daniel Harkness: He was the half-brother of Henry Flagler. Daniel owned a large-scale distillery. In 1888, the company paid over \$100,000 in tax. Revenue would be in excess of \$2,000,000. He knew he needed to grow the community, so he donated the right of way for the railroads to come through Bellevue. His wife was Isabella Harkness (his cousin and daughter of L.G. Harkness). After her death in 1864, he built the Harkness Memorial First Congregational Church next door to his house. No bell was ever been installed because he did not want to be disturbed by the bell. It was fashionable at the time in Europe to build family churches to show off wealth. The church still stands today. It is on the corner of Southwest Street and Monroe Street. Their house was very grand and large and was called the “gingerbread house”. It was originally built by Henry Flagler and when Flagler left town to seek his fortunes in Florida, Daniel purchased it. It became Bellevue’s YMCA, (I can remember playing basketball in the living room). Harkness was one of the richest people in the country in his time, worth 1.5 billion dollars in today’s money. The brick building behind the old church was a stable and boiler house. He was afraid of having open flames in the house. It stands today and is located behind the church. When he tore down the Chapman & Harkness Distillery, he used the lumber to build ten houses on Sinclair Street.

Henry Flagler (not buried here): He was the half-brother of Daniel Harkness and married Mary Harkness who was L.G. Harkness’ daughter. They had a daughter named Carrie. Flagler, John D Rockefeller and Daniel Harkness formed Standard Oil in Bellevue in 1870. Many prominent Bellevue citizens were investors and made substantial wealth. Flagler went on to develop most of Florida and founded railroads in Florida, he even grew fruit on the sides of the right-of-way. He started towns along the railroad to ensure success and growth. He built a 100,000 sq ft house in Florida that he named Whitehall which is now a hotel.

Carrie Harkness Flagler (June 18, 1858 - December 7, 1861): She was the daughter of Henry Flagler and his first wife, Mary Harkness Flagler. Her parents are entombed in the Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine, Florida. Henry built the “Gingerbread House” on South West Street in 1858, so Carrie would have lived all of her short life there. The home later became Bellevue’s YMCA. The site is now a part of the Mad River & NKP Railroad Museum. There is an historical marker there commemorating her father, Henry Flagler, who was one of the founders of the Standard Oil Company along John D. Rockefeller and later developed the east coast of Florida. Carrie’s paternal grandparents, Rev. Isaac and Elizabeth Caldwell Flagler, were originally buried beside Carrie, but in the 1970s they were moved to a Flagler cemetery in New York. Her maternal grandparents, Lamon G. and Julia Follet Harkness, are buried in Bellevue near Carrie.

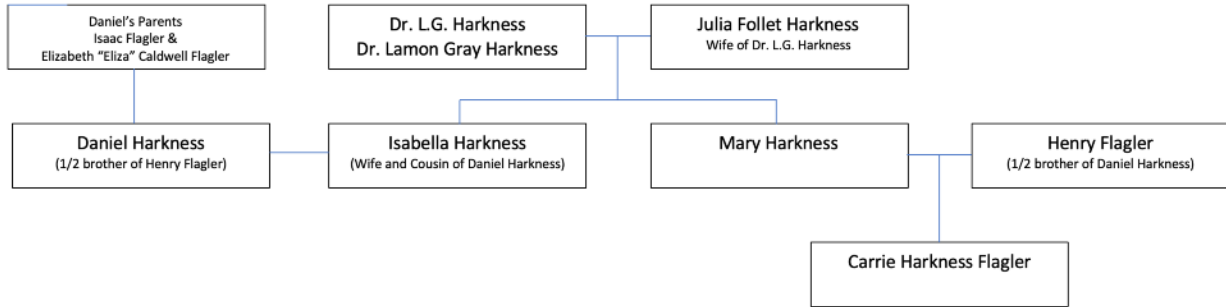


Frank Knapp: He was born in Germany where his father, also named Frank, fought in the Franco-Prussian War. The family moved to Bellevue after the war. He was a partner in a dry goods store and withdrew from the business to become Bellevue's postmaster. Early on he saw the need and benefit of instant communication for business and founded the Bellevue Telephone. His daughter Alice married William C. "Cap" Henry and he assumed control of the company and grew it into what is now Frontier. His daughter Magdalena married Allan Aigler and they are the parents of Bill Aigler. Involved in banking, being on the Wright Banking board and he purchased Bellevue Savings Bank and merged them into Union Bank. Founded Bellevue Manufacturing with Arthur Wolfe in 1915. It was previously Conway Stove.

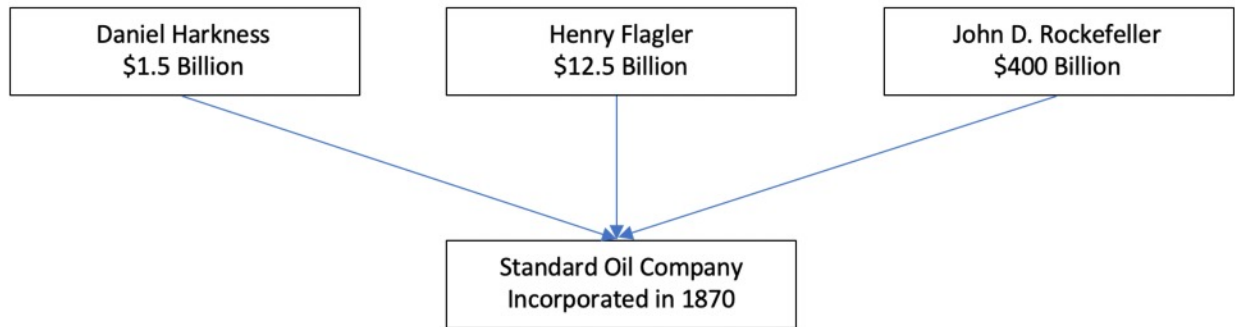
Harlow Case (H.C.) Stahl (1849-1941) specialized in the revolutionary new idea of a riding, or sulky, cultivator. He designed the first riding cultivator which featured a hammock seat. In 1885 he moved his small farm implement factory from Fremont to Bellevue. His business sense was outstanding and soon the Ohio Cultivator Company was a prosperous success. Stahl added on to his factory and soon employed many Bellevue citizens. It became the largest business in town, manufacturing the "Famous Ohio" brand of equipment. It is said that H. C. knew all of his employees by name and was truly interested in their lives. In 1901 he sent a train of 40 cars loaded with implements west and sold them at towns along the way. He was a shrewd businessman and had branches in Bellevue, Fremont, Dallas and Iowa. In 1931, during the depression, he established the Bellevue Savings Bank located in the Stahl Block at the corner of E. Main Street and Sandusky Street. The building has been torn down to make way for the library parking lot, but the "Stahl Block" sign from that building is still displayed on that corner. He was President of Bellevue Savings Bank and Harrah Bank in Oklahoma. The Bellevue Savings Bank and the Wright Banking Company combined to form the Union Bank and Savings Company. H. C. was a local philanthropist. He donated \$5,000 for books when the library was built, thus its original name was the Carnegie-Stahl Free Public Library. When the YMCA was formed, he purchased all of the athletic equipment. In 1896, he built his prominent home "Oakhurst" on West Main Street. (Today it is known as the Kemper House.) The interior was very ornate. He eventually sold the house to Daniel Seltzer who was a partner in the company and purchased the Ohio Cultivator Company from him. Daniel was also his son-in-law.

Daniel Seltzer (1882-1972) joined the Ohio Cultivator staff in 1907 and later became general manager in charge of every-day operations. In 1909, he and Alice Emeline Stahl were married in the Stahl mansion. Under his direction, many other implement companies were purchased by the Ohio Cultivator Company, the Black Hawk line being one of the most famous. In 1943, Seltzer, who had controlling interest, sold the company to The National Farm Machinery Cooperative. However, he remained active as general manager until 1951. The company closed its doors in 1957. In 1945, Daniel served as vice-president of The American Baler Company, newly formed by his son, Robert. He and his wife were very active in community affairs. He was a director of the YMCA for 26 years, headed government bond drives in both World War I and II, and was chairman of the building committee when the Bellevue Hospital was constructed.

Family Tree for Harkness & Flagler



Harkness, Flagler & Rockefeller



The Tremont House played an important role in the evolution of Bellevue and the Firelands. In 1867 Stephen Harkness, Henry Flagler (both one time Bellevue residents), and John D. Rockefeller, celebrated the signing of the contract that financed the start-up of The Standard Oil Company in the ballroom.

Net worth of Harkness, Flagler, & Rockefeller at today's dollar value \$414 Billion	Net worth comparison Elon Musk - \$241 Billion Jeff Bezos - \$151 Billion \$392 Billion
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Many of you know Patty Sullivan. She is related to several persons on this year’s walk.

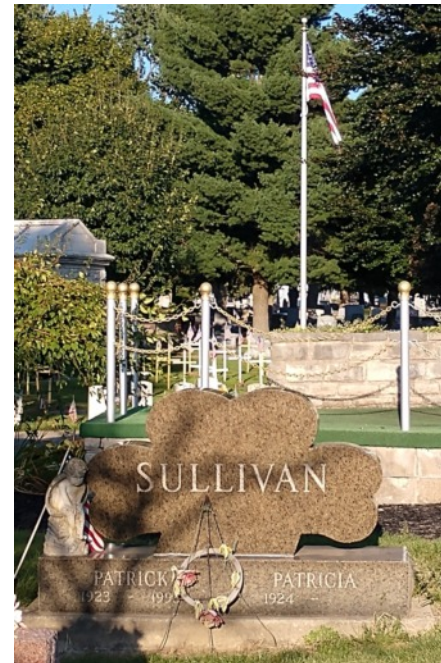
How each was related to Patricia Greenslade Siders Sullivan	
Patrick Sullivan - International Metal Hose	Late husband
William & Laurena (Oehm) Greenslade - FNB	Parents
Newton & Moina (Mugg) Greenslade - Tudor Inn	Father's parents
Louis (Louie) & Ida (Buderus) Oehm - J OEHM building	Mother's parents
Admiral John Wills Greenslade	Father's 1st cousin

Patrick Martin Sullivan was born in Bellevue March 17, 1923. His mother died when he was six weeks old. His father was a traveling salesman for movie ads in banks. Pat, and his two brothers, traveled with their dad until it was too much for him, so he left them with their Grandma and Grandpa Stoltz.

When Pat was 10 (1935), he entered the 5th grade at Pike School. This is when he and Patty Greenslade first met. He graduated in 1942. (Pat was President and Patty was Vice-President of their graduating class).

He enlisted in the Navy and served on an LST (Landing Ship Tank) as a radioman. During the Normandy invasion his ship crossed the English Channel 92 times. Pat attended Bowling Green University on the GI bill. He married Genevieve Lopeman, they had two children, Maureen and Michael, and eventually divorced.

In 1974 he married Patricia Greenslade Siders. (This was at some point after she lost her first husband and moved back to Bellevue). They were married for 19 years when he passed away in 1993. Patty turned 98 earlier this year and lives in Cincinnati near her son Bill and his family.



Pat was President and a partner with Art Wolfe at International Metal Hose and Hap Trucking Company. They manufacture flexible metallic hoses, from telephone cords to 18” hoses that carry grain. He was also the owner of Hasselbach & Paul Insurance, Director of Union Bank (now Croghan), and was on the Hospital Board.

William Mugg Greenslade was born in March 1896 to Newton F Greenslade and Moina Mugg. He attended Pike school and, after graduating from Bellevue High School, trained at Camp Sherman in Chillicothe. William served in France during WWI, achieved the rank of Sgt Major and worked in the Registration of Graves Department at General Pershing's headquarters. He married **Laurena Oehm** 1919. She was born in 1897 to Louis and Ida Oehm and died in 1987. They had two daughters, Betty Jane and Patricia Ann. William attended Oberlin Business School and worked in father's shoe store until it closed in 1929. He became President of First National Bank and had many travels. He died in 1978.



Newton Frederick (1866-1950) & Moina (Mugg) Greenslade (1868-1955) were the parents of William Mugg Greenslade. His family came from England in 1853. First his grandfather came to Bellevue, then his great-grandfather. They were members of St Paul's Episcopal Church. It was built in 1851 of stone from the quarry behind Pike School. His father was a shoemaker and owner of the Greenslade Shoe Store. It was originally located at the current site of the Historical Society Annex and later moved to the North side of Main Street (Snyders Office Supplies, which was west of the drug store and a few doors east of the Ruffing store).



He married Moina Mugg of Clyde (from a 1,000-acre farm). They had four sons: Russell - a pilot in WWI, William - President of FNB, N Aubrey - lived in Bellevue, Tom - head of the science department at Kenyon College and of Staten Island NYC, and later the archivist at Kenyon College; and one daughter: Genevieve

N Aubrey (Aug 26, 1897 - Nov 8, 1931)



Genevieve (February 25, 1892 - March 20, 1892)



They built the house which is now the Victorian Tudor Inn. The small barn, now at Historic Lyme Village, is marked as cobbler shop, but was actually a shoe store. It once housed the family horse named Homer and was lined with wooden shoe boxes.

Louis (Louie) Peter Oehm was born in 1865. While attending Bellevue High School, he had a job at First National Bank (established in 1875) sweeping floors. After he graduated, he attended business school in Cleveland. When a job opened at FNB, his brother took train to Cleveland to bring him home for the job. He was President for many of the 58 years he worked there. Louie married **Ida Buderus** (born in 1871) from Sandusky. They were the parents of Laurena Greenslade. He had extensive gardens and loved giving flowers and vegetables to friends. Louie died in 1950 and Ida in 1953. Louie is a descendant of Justus Oehm, of the J OEHM building in downtown Bellevue, formerly a shoe and boot store, and current home of Gardner & Strayer Insurance.



Vice-Admiral (VADM) John Wills Greenslade (January 11, 1880 - January 6, 1950). He was the son of **John Henry Greenslade**, a merchant and farmer, and **Nell Wills** and his father was the brother of Newton F Greenslade. He graduated from Bellevue High School in 1895 and received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. While in the Academy at the rank of Cadet-Ensign, he was the Coxswain in the Crew team.



John had a significant military career which spanned 51 years (46 years of active service) and three wars and was highly decorated. He served the Navy from 1899 - 1945 in many capacities, including instructor in the Department of Physics and Chemistry, ship's navigator, ordnance officer, Secretary and Treasurer of the United States Naval Institute, co-ordinator of naval logistics and had a Bachelor of Science degree. He also wrote *Landing Force Manual*, which was adopted by the Navy in 1918. He was Commandant of the 12th Naval District and Commander of the Westery Sea Frontier.

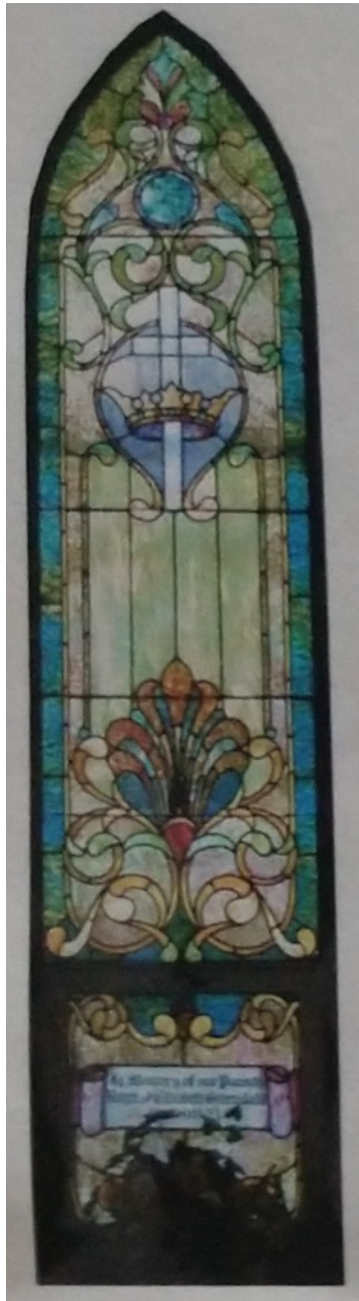
After retiring from the Navy, he settled in hometown Bellevue. He was active in both Kiwanis and Rotary. He was also an avid golfer and enjoyed sailing. John was buried with full military honors at the United States Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland.

St Paul's Episcopal Church, 285 W Main St

Excerpts from "St. Paul's Episcopal Church History of the Church" book.

The history of the church was compiled by Fleet Dillon and includes material taken from Diocesan records (1876), Admiral Greenslade's research (1949)...

The rear east window was converted to stained glass in 1906 by the Greenslade family in memory of Roger Greenslade. It was not until the fifties that the rear west window was changed to stained glass. This was given by the Wills family.



In Memory of our Parents
Roger & Elizabeth Greenslade
1908



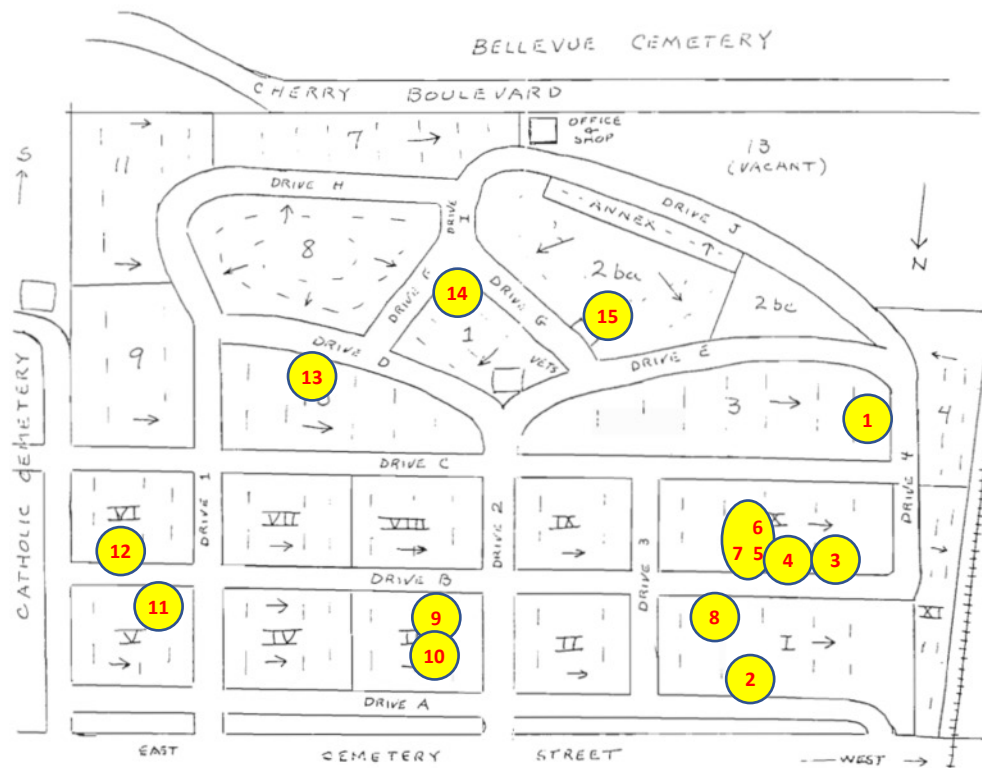
In Memory of our Parents
George Wills
Sarah Wolcott Wills

Victorian Tudor Inn, 408 W Main St.

Info from <http://www.victoriantudor.com/>

This home, "... the prettiest in the city" (*Bellevue Gazette, 1908*), was designed by the famous Fremont, Ohio architect, S. H. Shively, for Newton and Moina Greenslade. The Greenslades were prominent business and civic leaders, and board member's of the city's First National Bank, a present day thriving bank. The Bellevue Greenslades were not only banking entrepreneurs, but also military leaders, such as Admiral John W. Greenslade, who held various crucial WW II appointments, including Commandant of the Navy's Twelfth Naval District.





Location on Map	Name
1	Charles Zehner
2	Charles B. Gambee
3	Amos Woodward
4	Frederick Chapman
5	Daniel Harkness
6	Carrie Flagler (3 years old)
7	Dr. Lamon G. Harkness
8	William Amsden (Thomas Amsden)
9	Harlow Case Stahl - Ohio Cultivator Company
10	Daniel Seltzer - Ohio Cultivator Company
11	Louis (Louie) & Ida Oehm - J OEHM building
12	William & Laurena Greenslade - FNB
12	Newton & Moina (Mugg) Greenslade - Tudor Inn
12	Son - N Aubrey & Daughter - Genevieve
13	Vice Admiral John Wills Greenslade Parents John H & Nell (Wills) Greenslade
14	Frank Knapp
15	Patrick Sullivan - International Metal Hose