In 1869, Lake View Cemetery’s founders, led by Jeptha H. Wade, were making what would become historic decisions to establish the Lake View Cemetery Association and create a peaceful final resting place and a spectacular park for the living. These visionary leaders saw the opportunity to create more than a cemetery, but a civic institution that the entire community could enjoy. 150 years later, Lake View continues to be just that, for all walks of life.

In the spirit of celebrating the sesquicentennial of Lake View Cemetery, we have spent the last year planning to celebrate our historic past with a sharp focus on the future. As we plan for our next 150 years, it felt like the right time to give ourselves an updated look that is a reflection of where we have been and where we are going.

Our updated look can be found in redesigned Association and Foundation logos, and throughout our publications, website, and social media platforms. The new logos are inspired by the daffodil flower and the architectural ornaments of Italian master stone carvers, which are found throughout Lake View’s grounds. The logo is inspired by our beloved Daffodil Hill. It also symbolizes the daffodil as a hallmark of spring; evoking notions of renewal and hope which reflect the ideals upon which Lake View was founded: to find solace and healing among the beauty and nature of our grounds.

As we kick-off our sesquicentennial, we stand solidly on our founders’ ideals and celebrate this civic gem we call Lake View Cemetery. With 150 years down and eternity to go, we look forward to celebrating with you.

Katharine Goss, President & CEO
Lake View Cemetery Association

Help ensure the future of Lake View Cemetery. Please consider donating with the enclosed envelope or give online at LakeViewCemetery.com.
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With 150 years under our belt, we are excited to celebrate Lake View Cemetery with our community and supporters over the next two years. Why a two-year celebration? Our founding board of trustees purchased the land in 1869 with our first burial taking place on August 24, 1870.

We kick-off our sesquicentennial celebrations with a ceremony recognizing America’s Fallen Heroes on Memorial Day at the James A. Garfield Memorial. The day will include patriotic music, speakers, and more.

In 2018, Cleveland-based photographer Michael Weil visited the Cemetery each month at night during a full moon to capture Lake View like it has never been seen before. As the first of a potential series honoring Lake View’s sesquicentennial, Weil’s stunning photography series, “Lake View in a Reflective New Light,” will be displayed at locations within the Cemetery. The photos will be on exhibition between July 2019 and October 2020.

Michael Weil holds a Ph.D. in art history from Case Western Reserve University and is the founder of a local art gallery, Foothill Galleries. In addition to creating original art, Weil teaches on an adjunct basis at Cleveland Institute of Art. His photographs have been featured in exhibitions around Cleveland and have been acquired by the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Clinic, and by private collectors. His connection to Lake View Cemetery is deeply personal – his grandparents, father-in-law, father, sister-in-law, and his son Joshua, who passed away at age 18, are buried here.

Details on the opening of the exhibition as well as other celebratory events and programs are coming, so please visit our website and follow us on social media for further information.
What Will Your Legacy Be?

A planned gift is a contribution from a will, trust, life insurance, IRA, etc. that will leave a legacy for years to come. Lake View Cemetery encourages planned giving and stewards these legacy gifts through its Heritage Society. To learn more about how you can help to protect our beautiful 285-acre campus for generations to come, please contact Katharine Goss at 216-453-0975 or info@lakeviewcemetery.com.

Leading Lake View into the Future

Katharine Goss is no stranger to making waves in her career. When she joined Merrill Lynch in the early 1990’s, she was one of the first women in the investment advisory field, and later became a founding partner of Cedar Brook Financial Partners. Now after nine years as President & CEO of Lake View, she is one of only a few women leading major, historic cemeteries in the United States.

Under Kathy’s leadership, there has been a 39% increase in cemetery sales while raising $5.5 million for capital projects throughout the Cemetery’s 285 acres. Kathy’s approach to sales and marketing for the Cemetery is creative and edgy, while leading with the mission in mind: to preserve this nationally recognized landmark, and create a welcoming, peaceful environment for the living.

5K Race Raises Funds for Lake View

The 7th Annual Run Through History 5K race and 2-Mile walk was held on October 14, 2018. With over 30 sponsors, including principle sponsor KeyBank, the race is a major fundraiser for Lake View Cemetery Foundation and benefits its Educational Outreach efforts. Nearly 250 participants came out on a brisk fall morning to enjoy the challenging courses that wind through the Cemetery’s hilly terrain. The event featured Dog Games and Contests for some additional fun for dogs, their owners and spectators alike.

Mark your calendar for this year’s race, scheduled for Sunday, September 29, 2019. For information or to register, visit lakeviewcemetery.com/RunThroughHistory.
The View from the Beginning
The view from the top of the James A. Garfield Memorial is nothing short of stunning. On a clear day, one can see 40 miles of Lake Erie shore.

150 years ago, some of Cleveland’s leading citizens visited what was rugged terrain on the outskirts of the city, and were captivated by the commanding views of Lake Erie. Today with over 110,000 people interred at Lake View, it is hard to believe this was once considered an isolated rural retreat.

Setting out to establish a new cemetery in the late 1860’s, Lake View Cemetery’s founders were in search of a location away from the noise, pollution and vandalism destroying in-town grave sites. Forming the Lake View Cemetery Association in 1869, they sought to create a burial ground that would rival in splendor the great garden cemeteries of 19th century England and France.

Original board meeting minutes from 1869 detail how the Lake View Cemetery Association came together to incorporate as a board with the state of Ohio, and the election of its first board of trustees, including Jeptha H.
The trustees considered several sites near East Cleveland before the nearly 200 original acres were purchased for $73,000.

Wade, founder of the Western Union Telegraph Company, as the Association’s first president. The visionary founding Association board members took great care in identifying the quintessential site to create a beautiful setting in which Clevelanders from all walks of life could honor the memory of their loved ones and enjoy a tranquil refuge for the living.

The trustees considered several sites near East Cleveland before the nearly 200 original acres were purchased for $73,000. The due diligence of the trustees to identify the most ideal site is captured in the Association board meeting minutes from August 3, 1869:

“The trustees then proceeded to the parcels of land lying on the East Cleveland Ridge known as the Dr. Ambler tract. This tract consists of seventy five acres which is offered by the owner to the Association. A portion of this tract is a very high bluff commanding an extensive view of the lake and the city with its surroundings. Two circumstances however bear upon the minds of the Trustees as objections, the surface was found to be a yellow heavy clay, rendering it too wet for cemetery purposes, and the price placed upon it being in the estimation of the Trustees much above its real value.”

According to the same board meeting minutes, it was clear when the trustees had come upon the perfect place:

“For variety of surface no tract of land in the vicinity of Cleveland excels it. It presents a complete network of ravines running in every direction over the surface of the entire tract... It has an elevation of from 175-250 feet above the surface of the lake, it commands an extensive lake prospect, besides overlooking the whole city and its surroundings.”

Although the trustees knew they had found the ideal location, there was still concern about the cemetery’s distance from the city center. But as the first lots were selected in 1870, word was beginning to spread about this quiet retreat from the city with a lake view.

Modeled after the rural garden cemeteries that were popularized in 19th century France and England, Lake View attracted visitors to its peaceful and well-kept grounds. Sometimes referred to as America’s first urban parks, rural garden cemeteries had carefully planned
On August 25, 1870, Captain Louis Germain DeForest, a Civil War soldier, was the first person to be buried at Lake View. At only 31 years of age, Captain DeForest preceded 895 Civil War patriots that would eventually be buried at Lake View.
and designed landscapes that provided encounters with nature and opportunities for recreation as well as respite. Clevelanders were beginning to take notice: Lake View became a destination to spend their Sunday afternoons picnicking on the grounds. Ultimately the opening of the James A. Garfield Memorial on Memorial Day 1890, twenty years after its first burial, launched Lake View as a true destination for visitors. Visiting Lake View became so popular that the following year, separate admission tickets had to be issued to lot holders and the general community.

The 1890’s were a time of exciting growth and construction at Lake View, which was occurring in tandem to what was happening in the city. Cleveland was becoming a titan of industry and philanthropy. City leaders, many of them founders of Lake View, were nationally recognized. While Cleveland was booming, it was also emerging as a melting pot for many immigrants and diverse ethnic communities, and became invaluable to the region. Ever forward-looking, the Lake View board of trustees recognized that with the changing demographics in Cleveland, the prices of lots in newer sections had to be lower to be accessible to individuals of moderate means, including newer arrivals to the area who were successful within their own communities. This was especially evident in the neighborhood just to the west of the Cemetery, Little Italy. Residents of Little Italy worked as gardeners and stoncutters on the grounds, and monument builders for local companies. Eventually many of those same people were buried at Lake View.

Once seen as the final resting place for the elite and notable Cleveland figures, Lake View is and always has been progressive in being open to all walks of life. From its most famous resident, President James A. Garfield, to the lesser known residents, the tranquil retreat from the city with a spectacular view of Lake Erie that the founders envisioned remains a destination. With 65 acres of land providing burial spaces for the next 100 years, the leadership of Lake View looks to the future with enthusiasm, hope, and a sense of purpose as the trusted steward of this Cleveland treasure.

To find the Captain DeForest monument, follow the white line on the road to section 1.
Welcoming paths wind over gently rolling hills past spectacular trees and flowers. In spring this arboretum blossoms into a pastel-colored paradise, while in winter, Lake View becomes a snow-capped wonderland, dotted with timeless architecture. Without a doubt, this was and continues to be a very intentional place. Every detail planned, beginning in 1869.

Several developments in the 19th century gave birth to a new style of burial ground called the “garden cemetery,” of which Lake View is one of the U.S.’s most outstanding examples. Intown cemeteries dating from colonial times had become barren eyesores. Starting out as purely functional spaces devoid of ornamentation and commemorative meaning, they had been through years of careless maintenance and had deteriorated to the point where a new approach had to be considered.

The solution was rooted in the growing Romanticism of the era, whose poets and philosophers had discovered the healing touch of nature. The Romantic notion that the pain of death may be eased for survivors if their loved ones were laid to rest in a peaceful, natural setting captured the attention of the leading citizens of Boston. In 1831, they established a rural cemetery on the outskirts of Cambridge. This garden cemetery, the first in the country, served as a model for Lake View.

For inspiration, the founders of garden cemeteries in Boston, Cleveland, and other cities turned to the landscaping principles of 18th century English estates. These included winding paths over rolling hills, extensive water courses and ponds, and open meadows fringed by forests. In further contrast to intown burial grounds, family plots were set in clearings in the woods and adorned with stone sculptures and obelisks. Landscape gardener Adolph Strauch conceived the original design of Lake View Cemetery, including detailed plans indicating the location of every avenue, lot, and planting in the first area of Lake View to be landscaped. Strauch insisted that garden cemeteries ought to be treated as unified landscape – a concept that came to be known as the “lawn plan.” His influence can be seen in Lake View’s adoption of regulations imposing uniformity of lot size, restrictions on monument height, prohibiting fencing, and other practices that were common at the time.

While not as famous as his contemporary, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. (the designer of New York City’s Central Park), Strauch contributed another important concept to the field of landscape architecture: the idea that

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In 1910 alone, 6,000 plants, trees, and shrubs were planted.
“My grandfather and father were responsible for developing Lake View into an arboretum,” Richard Muny, Ernst’s grandson said. “They both saw it as a mission.”
cemeteries should serve the living as well as the dead. His vision of a garden cemetery included its use as a “museum, arboretum, bird sanctuary, park, historical archive, and landmark.” These were the goals that Lake View’s board of trustees set out to fulfill, beginning in 1871, when a planter and general manager of trees was engaged at an annual salary of $800.

From the 1890’s to the onset of the Great Depression, Lake View expanded rapidly. The board of trustees methodically began building the infrastructure to support the transformation of 285 acres of rolling, forested terrain into a shaded Victorian garden. Land was drained and graded, waterlines, sewers and catch basins were installed, and broad, winding bridges and curbing were built, using sandstone quarried on cemetery property. All the work was accomplished by an on-site crew of newly arrived Italian gardeners and stonecutters, many of whom settled nearby in a community known today as Little Italy.

Responsibility for the cemetery’s planting program was placed in the capable hands of a German nurseryman named Ernst Muny, who was hired in 1903. For the next 55 years Muny devoted himself to the challenge of turning Lake View into a botanical showcase. In 1910 alone, 6,000 plants, trees, and shrubs were planted. His son Walter started out as a member of the crew and worked his way up to foreman. “My grandfather and father were responsible for developing Lake View into an arboretum,” Richard Muny, Ernst’s grandson said. “They both saw it as a mission.”

As the 1920’s came to a close, nearly half of the available acreage at Lake View was partially or fully developed, and the board felt the time had come to take stock. In 1930, it retained Cleveland-based landscape architect A.D. Taylor, who had built a national reputation for his design of estate gardens. Taylor prepared a comprehensive master plan that used before-and-after existing plantings that would provide better framing of memorials, help to screen unsightly areas, add seasonal interest and create more pleasing vistas. Unfortunately, the Great Depression intervened before Taylor’s plans could be realized. It would fall to a subsequent chief executive, Charles B. Gleason, to take the cemetery’s beautification to the next level. A devoted gardener who had been the first male president of the Garden Center of Greater Cleveland (now the Cleveland Botanical Garden), Gleason wanted Lake View to be a “happy place.” Gleason worked with A.D. Taylor landscape designer Charles S. Knight to initiate an ambitious planting program that saw thousands of flowering trees and shrubs introduced into what was largely a monochromatic green setting.

This vision lives on today. No matter the season, a visitor to Lake View is treated to the breathtaking horticulture that makes Lake View a destination for an afternoon... or the afterlife.
Plans for Eternity

Making plans for the future, Sally and Mike Yarham found their perfect spot for eternity at Lake View.

It may surprise some to see two people with beaming smiles at their future final resting place, but that is exactly how Sally and Mike Yarham felt when they chose their plots last fall. The reason behind their smiles? Peace of mind. While we tend to plan ahead for retirement and in our wills, burial planning tends to be ignored or forgotten. Pre-planning provides the opportunity to put your mind - and your family’s - at ease. It allows time to discuss important matters.

“Picking out a site that we truly like and completing our pre-planning has given us peace of mind.”
with your loved ones during a calm time and when decisions can be made with a clear head.

Motivated to take the stress out of planning whenever the time comes for themselves and their children, Sally and Mike completed the pre-planning process this past fall. “Picking out a site that we truly like and completing our pre-planning has given us peace of mind,” Sally shared.

Drawn to Lake View for its seasonal beauty, park-like setting, and the pristine grounds, the couple worked with their Memorial Advisor, Karen Drake, to find the place that felt right to them.

Sally and Mike shared that having Karen as a knowledgeable guide with enthusiasm and pride in Lake View Cemetery made the experience an enjoyable one. They were surprised to learn that there is still plenty of land and plots available at Lake View to choose from, and will be for years to come. Sally and Mike chose a lot on Reflection Point overlooking the famed Daffodil Hill. This location spoke to Sally specifically. “Being part of Daffodil Hill is special because growing up, my bedroom window looked out to my mom’s daffodil garden,” Sally remembers.

With over 285 breathtaking acres, Lake View Cemetery may have the spot that is perfect for you. Lake View is open for all walks of life.

For more information visit LakeViewCemetery.com.
“Being part of Daffodil Hill is special because growing up, my bedroom window looked out to my mom’s daffodil garden.”
A Life Well Lived

For a couple that spent a majority of their lives involved in political campaigns, Arnold R. and Betty Pinkney knew the importance of an effective plan. “Arnold loved campaigns, he always said analyze, strategize, and implement,” shares Betty, Arnold’s wife of 56 years. When the time came to decide on a final resting place, Arnold and Betty planned ahead.

Arnold R. Pinkney was a trailblazing civil rights leader and admired campaigner in local and national politics, leading campaigns that included Carl and Louis Stokes, Mayor Frank Jackson, Mayor Michael R. White, and Reverend Jesse Jackson’s 1984 presidential bid.

Since Arnold’s passing in 2014, Lake View has served as a peaceful sanctuary to Betty. She spends many hours sitting on her bench “watching the seasons change and the deer run.” Arnold had a love of flowers and gardening, so the flowers around their monument and bench, which the couple thoughtfully pre-planned before Arnold became ill, are of particular importance to Betty.

While Betty appreciates the blooms of the summer at Lake View, fall tends to be her favorite season, when the foliage is in full color, before the chill is in the air. “It is so peaceful here, it is the perfect final resting place for a life well lived.”

Betty is a generous supporter of Lake View Cemetery Foundation and a member of its 1869 Society, always naming her gifts in loving tribute to her husband.

Emily Hartwell Taylor

Once a week, Emily Hartwell Taylor takes a walk from her home to Lake View and spreads rose petals on the graves of her parents and grandparents. Inspired by her memories of her grandmother as a rose gardener, Emily spreads yellow or pink petals. This ritual holds a special place in Emily’s heart as she feels the presence of her loved ones when she visits.

A member of the 1869 Society, keeping her family’s plot beautiful is a priority; Emily recently helped fund tree-trimming services for the area around the plot. For more information on ways to give, visit lakeviewcemetery.com/give.
Did you know?

The original landscape at Lake View was designed by Adolph Strauch. He believed in “serving the living” by making outdoor spaces artistic and beautiful.
The James A. Garfield Memorial, located at the highest point in the Cemetery, is the final resting place for President James A. Garfield, 20th President of the United States.

Designed by George Keller, the Garfield Memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1890. It stands 180 feet tall.

Original cost was $135,000, funded through private donations.

Photos courtesy of U.S. Library of Congress
...and now

The Garfield Memorial at Lake View is open April 1st–November 19th (his birthday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily. Admittance is free.

Visitors can see Lake Erie from the Garfield Memorial.
**Monumental Markers**

Jeptha H. Wade was the first president of Lake View Cemetery and founder of Western Union. Descendants of Wade are still being buried here today.

*To find this monument, go to the top of Section 3.*