



VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2

www.greenvillealumni.org

Summer 2021

50TH YEAR RECOGNITION OF THE 1971 FOOTBALL TEAM

DURING THE AUGUST 19, 2021, SEASON OPENING GAME FOR THE WAVE, THE 1971 TEAM WILL BE HONORED AT THAT FIRST HOME GAME.

ALL TEAM MEMBERS, COACHES, AND CHEERLEADERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. CONTACT MIKE STEGALL AT 937-459-9555 IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.

GREENVILLE HIGH'S UNDEFEATED & MVL CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM FALL 1971

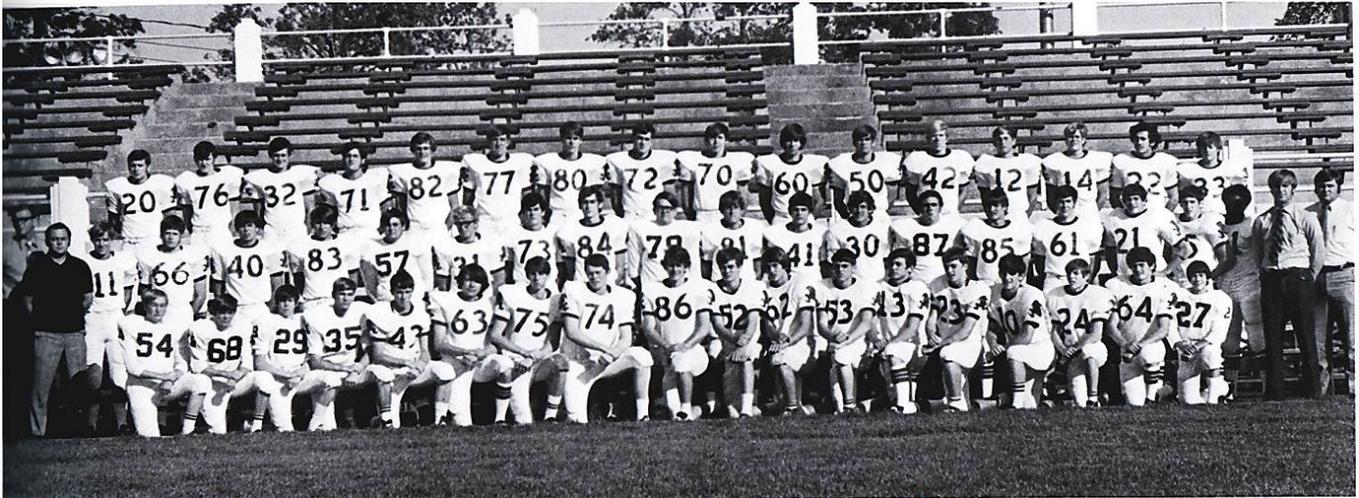
1971 proved to be the year of the Wave as this nearly forgotten team thundered onto the gridiron and took the MVL by storm.

It was Coach **Tom Hollman's** first year at Greenville as well as his first taste of head-coaching. Along with Coach Hollman came an entire new staff of offensive and defensive line coaches - **Pete "Hoss" Moore, Rex Radeloff** and **Mike Coberly**.

They were acclaimed state-wide by sports writers and coaches alike as not only one of the youngest, but most surprisingly successful staffs in the state. They built up a winning team to a record-breaking season and nabbed the coveted MVL title, a feat not accomplished by any Greenville football team since 1954.

As a result of his accomplishments in the success of the Greenville gridiron, Coach Hollman was bestowed with the title of "coach of the year" of the entire **Miami Valley League**.

They began the season by capturing the "**Little Brown Jug**" from their old rival, the Celina Bulldogs, and later should have taken a second "**Little Brown Jug**" from the Sidney Yellow Jackets. That Brown Jug was hidden from the team after the Green Wave defeated a stunned Yellow Jackets team, 22-8. The Sidney coaches were quite upset by that loss. That is the school Coach Holman came from as their defensive coordinator the year before. While thundering on through the season, these young men captured the MVL championship and then continued to put the icing on the cake by finishing the season 10-0.



GREENVILLE HIGH FOOTBALL TEAM, FALL 1971

Row 1, left to right: N. Emrick; T. House; J. Pequignot; M. Strauser; D. Riegle; M. Lewis; S. Turner; S. Arnett; D. Beeson; D. Holcomb; M. Fansler; K. Hathaway; M. Maitlan; T. Greer; B. Roberson; J. Pequignot; C. Goodpaster; T. Deeter.

Row 2: T. Hollman; M. Coverly; V. Hennessy; D. Combs; M. Niswonger; M. Wenger; M. Allen; S. Wion; S. Brown; B. Williams; J. Brodrick; T. Dull; D. Stegall; M. Rhoades; G. Arnold; R. Beisner; T. McKibben; J. Pequignot; M. Shroyer; L. Badger.

Row 3: J. Toman; D. Denlinger; M. Warner; B. Ison; T. Meador; B. Hunt; D. Sackett; J. Hathaway; L. Lewis; D. Polei; M. Stegall; S. Beumer; P. Brumbaugh; S. Spidel; G. Garcia; D. Stull.

Blocked on all sides, George Garcia seeks safe ground >>

Joe Toman runs for a big gain (below):



>>>**Don't forget Homecoming**

Friday, October 1 at 7:00 pm

versus Piqua<<<



Proposed Henry St. Clair High School Building in 1921 100th Year Anniversary 2021

The old **West School** High School built in 1868 was originally located where the Memorial Hall is today. In 1909 the building was moved west to along Central Avenue, with the **St. Clair Memorial Hall** being built in 1910 in the center of the block, and finished and dedicated in 1912. As this old West High School building approached 50 years old, it needed much work, and it greatly inconvenienced its teachers and pupils. The rooms were inadequate and overcrowded making it impossible to carry on the work of educating our children.

The School Board realized their duty, and in 1921 employed **William B. Ittner** (1864-1936) of St. Louis, who was recognized as one of the best school-building architects in the United States. He designed over 430 schools and was described as the most influential man in school architecture in the United States. His new innovations for school buildings included natural lighting with large windows, skylights, lightwells, integrated ventilation with air exiting through the chimney. His plans effectively connect the specialized places of the school into one cohesive unit, and the community school concept which allowed school resources to be available for residents of the community to use.

The School Board knew for several years that they should be providing more room for our schools, but it was impossible to get material and labor during the World War I era (1914-18). All other school districts were also prevented from similar building programs during this period due to similar reasons.

The attendance records showed an increased enrollment for the Greenville Schools from 1,025 in 1912 to 1,526 in 1921. The new planned High School building was designed to be attached at the rear of the Memorial Hall, and be three floors of a modern high school, doubling the old school's capacity. This made a very elegant memorial Hall/High School combination and should have been well-received. It was positioned along West Fifth Street extending to near Central Avenue. In this early 1920s period, it "regarded High School Education as a necessary equipment for all the children of all the people". The high school attendance grew four times as fast as the population, as "Parents became determined more than ever before to send their children to High School". In today's world, attending high school is pretty much taken for granted, but in 1920 families had to decide whether to send their children to high school or to

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enter the work force. This presentation of the new construction to the public was dated October 28, 1921.

Henry St. Clair owned a successful wholesale grocery business in Greenville, and the impressive structure of the new St. Clair High School would have been an imposing elegant building addition, financed somewhat by St. Clair. At some point in time, this plan was replaced by a new plan to design the next high school building to fit the existing angled shape of the block on which it was located, instead of being located in a more awkward location at the rear of the block along Fifth Street. There was an existing residence at the corner of Fifth and Central at the point, which would be torn down to allow the new high school building to best use the available space. The Junior High building that was torn down a few years ago offered increased usable space, more than the proposed St. Clair High School would have had. This more effectively used the space available at the point and allowed a larger building to be built.

After a public vote in 1922, **Minor McCool**, Greenville Schools Superintendent, wrote, "The \$390,000 bond issue carried about 2 to 1. When this addition is completed, Greenville will have a million-dollar high school plant." The statuesque proposed Henry St. Clair High School was a dream which never came true, and until this past ten years, very few people remember that this idea even existed.

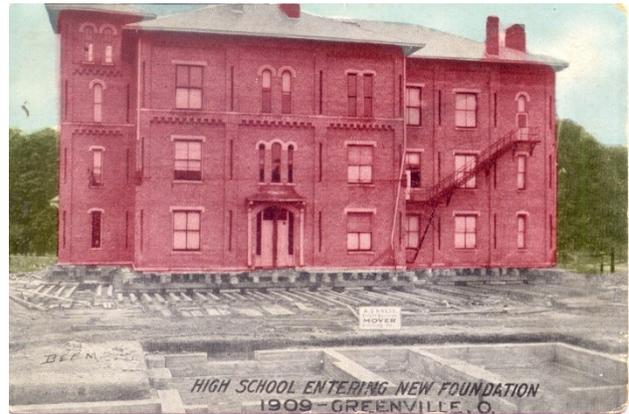
>>Editor's note: Early in 2010, this proposal of the new construction was discovered in the basement of the Memorial Hall and presented to then GHS Superintendent **Susie Riegle**, GHS '77. With no one still alive who remembers these details, Susie thought the G.H.S. alumni would find this interesting. Thank you, Susie! We have run parts of this story before but the magnificent structure is always worth another re-visit, especially on the 100th anniversary of this beautiful proposed addition of the high school to the existing Memorial Hall.



Proposed Plan of New High School Building in connection with Memorial Hall

Henry and Ella Van Dyke St. Clair

Henry St. Clair (1852-1908) was born in New York and moved to Darke County at age three. After moving to Cincinnati and finishing school he became a bookkeeper and attended Commercial College. He married **Ella Van Dyke St. Clair** (1853-1927) and they moved back to Greenville in 1872 and started what eventually proved to be the most successful wholesale grocery business in the county. By 1878, his company had sales of more than \$200,000 serving our community. He served on the School Board, City Council, and donated generously to the Carnegie Library. He died in 1908 before the reality of his dream was built – a building for educational and cultural performances. He left \$100,000 to the Board of Education to be used for the construction of a Memorial Hall. The School Board wanted to place the new Hall next to the Library, which necessitated moving the old West High School to the west along Central Avenue. An attempt to pass a bond levy to build a new high school failed so the only choice was to move the building onto a new foundation on Central Ave. in 1909. Mrs. St. Clair paid the \$7,000 moving fee to Kress Home Moving Company of Pittsburgh, PA.



Moving the old West High School from its old location in the center of the block to the west side of the block along Central Avenue in 1909 to make way for the new Memorial Hall (above-colored post cards from 1909 showing the building raised onto logs, then moved to the west).

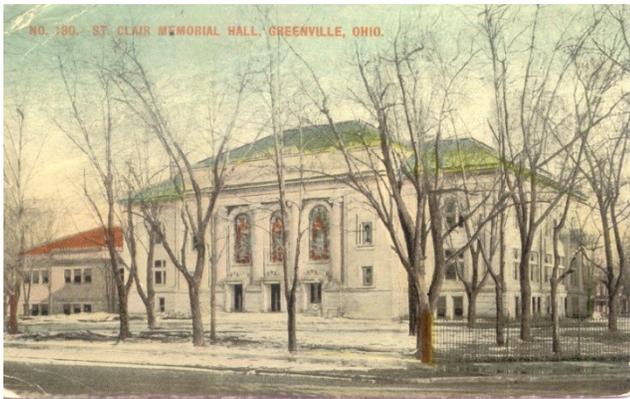
Excavation work for the Memorial Hall began in the spring of 1910. The cornerstone was laid on June 30, 1910. Although the building was scheduled to be completed by the summer of 1911, it was not completed and dedicated until May 3, 1912 (*post cards pictured below are of construction in 1910 and the dedication in 1912*):



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The architect and main contractor were from Columbus. The building was constructed of Bedford stone and gray pressed bricks. Polished Vermont marble was used for the vestibule and lobby, along with three massive stained-glass windows. The pipe organ installed was from Hagerstown, Maryland, and cost \$7,000. The total project cost was \$135,000 and was paid by Ella St. Clair. The front rotunda is 26 feet by 46 feet in height. The auditorium originally seated 700, but now seats 628 after the three phases of the 1985 to 1991 restoration. The auditorium dimensions are 64 feet square and 48 feet in height, and was patterned after the beautiful Maxine Elliot Theater in New York City.

Views of the Memorial Hall through post cards and recent photos:



1913



1915



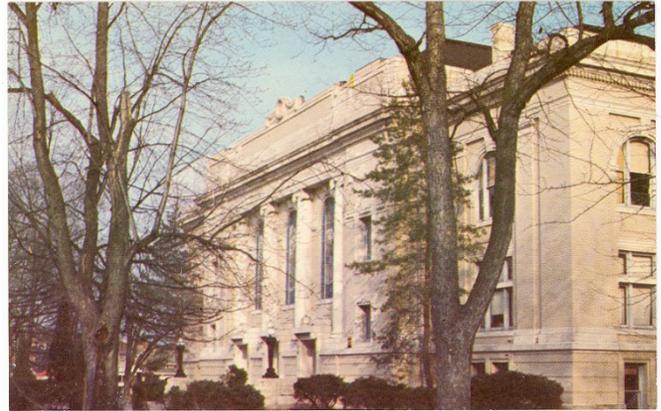
1920



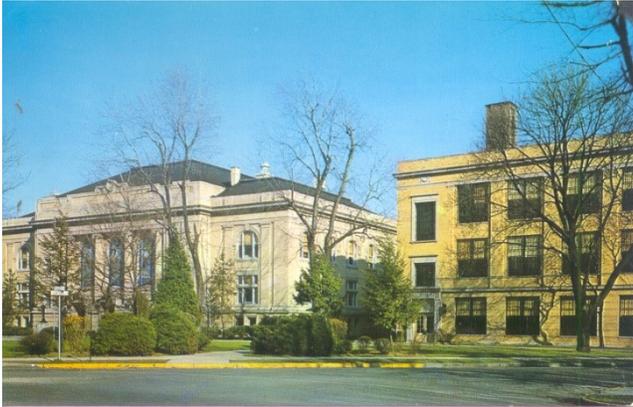
1928



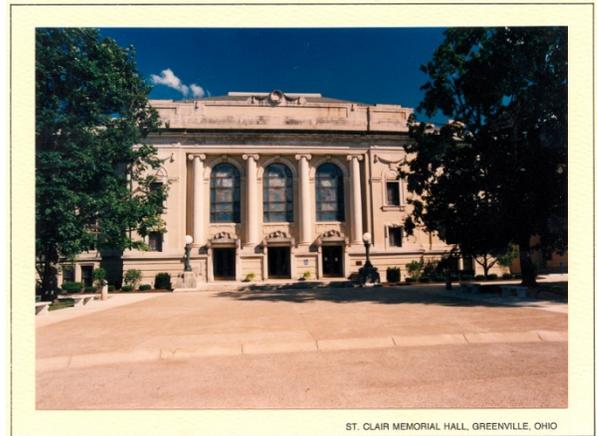
Chamber of Commerce card, 1960



1962

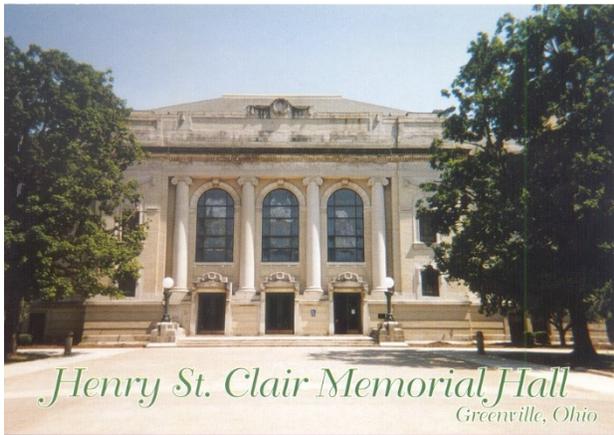


1959



ST. CLAIR MEMORIAL HALL, GREENVILLE, OHIO

1991



Henry St. Clair Memorial Hall
Greenville, Ohio

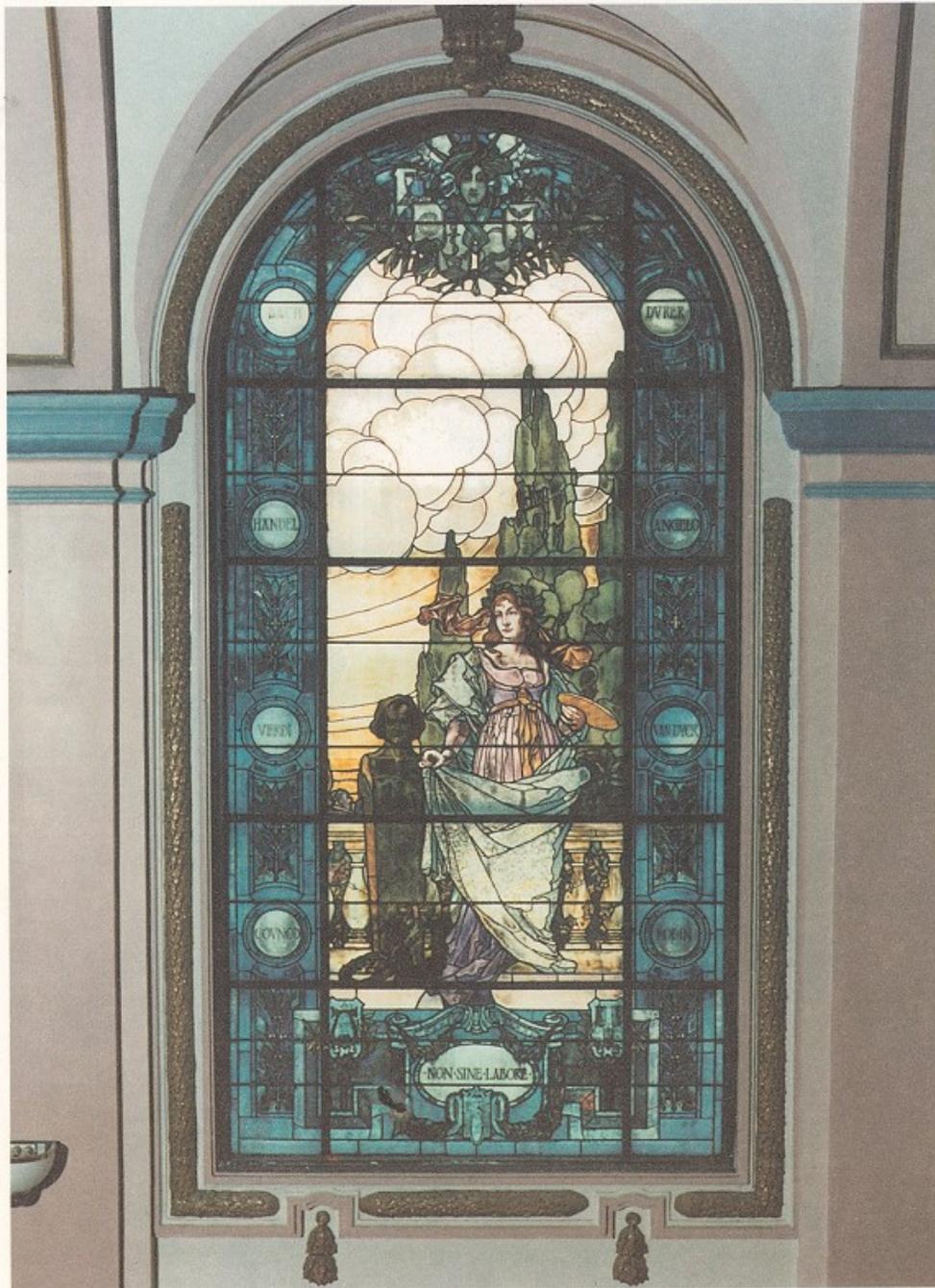
1995



2004

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The three large, beautiful Venetian stained-glass windows above the main entrance symbolize the standards Henry St. Clair wanted to bring to Greenville: Literature, Labor, and Art. The design of the windows was not Tiffany but the opalescent glass in the clouds of the glass was manufactured in the Tiffany studio.



*The Darke County
Endowment For The Arts*

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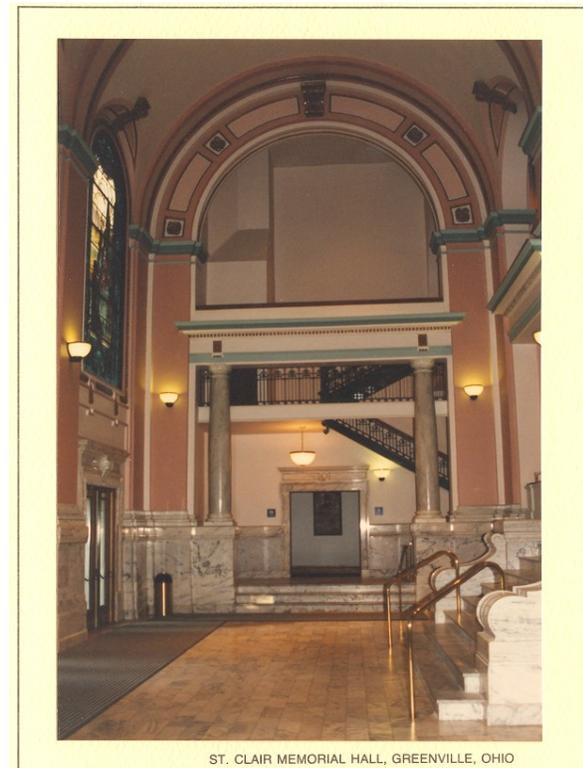
Many graduations from Greenville High School were held in this building, starting with the first year the building existed in 1911. Somewhere around 1960 the classes became too large to accommodate all those who wished to attend the Commencement, and graduation was moved to the football stadium. Many plays and musicals were presented on the stage and provide memories for all who participated.

The St. Clair home on the second block of East Third Street was constructed in 1896 and, following the death of Ella in 1927, became a residence for the elderly in 1936. The rear addition was added in 1946, and the building is still in use for residences.

The home is pictured in a 1915 post card and a newer 2005 photo, 90 years later, showing part of the rear addition:



Remodeled rotunda of the Memorial Hall:



Life is a Journey, One Adventure at a Time

The award-winning Certified Professional Photographer **Ty Swartz**, GHS 1991, is internationally recognized and specializes in high school senior portraits where he lives in Chesapeake, VA. He grew up in Greenville and was encouraged to grow as a photographer by his high school English and Art teachers along with his mentor, Greenville's Master Photographer **Ted Grote**, GHS 1948.

Ty joined the U.S. Navy in 1991 and traveled to over 64 countries as a photojournalist telling the stories of our country's servicemen. He spent three years working as a Navy Hollywood Liaison working on movie and TV projects. His film credits include "Sum of All Fears", "Pearl Harbor", "Antwone Fisher Story", "Stealth", "The Core", and "Danger Zone: The Making of Top Gun". His television credits include "JAG", "NCIS", "24", "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno", "Operation Junkyard", "The Price if Right", and "The Wheel of Fortune". After 20 years in the Navy, Ty retired in 2011.

Ty became an accomplished public relations/communications executive with extensive experience enhancing organizational images in diverse global markets. He developed ground breaking marketing, digital/online, public relations, promotional and community outreach campaigns including media coverage in the *New York Times*, B.B.C., *USA Today*, Reuters, Time magazine, and the Associated Press. He has also worked for the U.S. Small Business Administration in New York City, Walt Disney Company, Cox Communications, and the City of Virginia Beach.

Ty graduated from Southern Illinois University in 2003 with a B.S. in Workforce, Education, and Development and started developing photographic education training. He earned a Masters in Business Administration in Project Management and Marketing from Brenau University and a postgraduate Teaching License from Regent University. He presently teaches for the Virginia Beach City Schools at the Governor's STEM Academy at Landstown High School as a Graphic Communications educator teaching Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, Illustrator, InDesign, and Premiere Pro. He teaches students graphic communication through the use of marketing, photography, and videography. He teaches and helps photographers gain their Certified Professional Photographer designation for the Professional Photographers of America community, an organization that Ted Grote introduced to Ty in 1989.

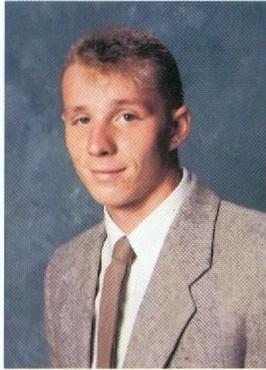
He is also starting to organize trips for high school students to travel internationally. There was a trip to Peru planned for this year but was cancelled due to virus concerns, but there is a 10-day trip planned to Italy and Spain for June, 2021. For 2022, he is planning a trip to Greece and Italy, Germany, or Switzerland, and to continue reaching for his goal of opening the world of travel to his students. In 2019, Ty was a judge for the Darke County Fair Art competition.

Ty is married to **Nicole Swartz** and they have three children, **Andrew**, **Tristian**, and **Dylan**. His GHS family connections include a brother **Matt Swartz**, GHS 1992, mother **Bev Hirsch**, GHS 1971, father **Charles Swartz**, GHS 1964, stepmother **Connie Cool Swartz**, GHS 1974, aunt **Joy Johnson Bowers**, GHS 1958, uncle **Dwight "Corky" Bowers**, GHS 1952, uncle **Bruce Hirsch**, GHS 1976, grandmother **Lois Mead Ashman**, and cousin **Mike Bowers**, GHS 1979.

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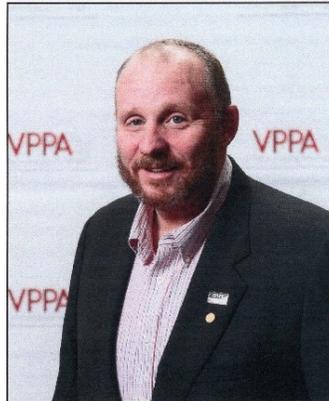
As a storyteller, Ty recognizes that he has a blessed life as a professional photographer with many experiences and stories to tell. His motto is “Life is a journey, one adventure at a time”.

High School, 1991



Tyler Swartz

Professional Photographer



at Wedding 7-11-2020
In Greenville



See all our Newsletters at the website
www.greenvillealumni.org



<<<< Masked Musical Greenie from the Orchestra
is a reminder of the Covid year

Long Live the Class of 1925

The year 1907 was a good year for long-living future GHS classmates to be born. In addition to **Lona Mergler Collins** being born in 1907, three other GHS alums became the longest living GHS graduates during their lifetimes—all born in 1907 and graduating in 1925. **Ruth Lonas Heath**, GHS 1925, nicknamed “Re Liable” in the Chief yearbook, a longtime Greenville Schools elementary teacher from 1935 to 1970, died in 2009 at age 101. **Oren Longfellow**, GHS 1925, nicknamed “Obediant Lad”, died in 2010 at age 103, and **Thelma Baird Plessinger Shives**, GHS 1925, nicknamed “Thoughtful Beauty”, passed away in 1911 and age 104. Even the Class Valedictorian, **Mabel Metcalfe Albrecht**, GHS 1925, nicknamed “Musical Maid”, also experienced a long life which ended in 2003 at age 96. The Class of 1925 was proud to be the first class to graduate from the “New High School” and is a class to never be forgotten.



Ruth Lonas Heath Oren Longfellow Thelma Baird Shives Mabel Metcalfe Albrecht

Ironically, the youngest two teachers to die while teaching full-time at GHS included one who died in 1925. **Sylvia Balthaser**, GHS Class of 1909, taught Commercial classes for five years and died in 1925 at age 34. Her obituary said that she “succumbed to the ravages of influenza when she answered the final summons”. The other young teacher was in a different era, **Mary Brinkman Powers**, GHS 1967, who had taught elementary classes at Woodland Heights School for three years before passing away in 1983 at age 33. Her obituary stated that she “died at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Dayton, where she had been a patient for one week”.



SYLVIA BALTHASER



Mary Brinkman Powers Mabel Metcalfe Albrecht’s Class Ring
Is in good condition

Ohio's Oldest Person Dies at 112

Lona J. "Gram" Mergler Collins, Class of 1925, was officially recognized as the oldest person in Ohio up to her death June 25, 2019, at the age of 112. She was born in Medford, Oklahoma, June 18, 1907, where she was a sickly baby and was not expected to live to her first birthday. Her family lived the coming years on a farm near Pikeville, which is about five miles north of Greenville on Route 127 and is in the Greenville school district. In 1920 when Lona would have been 13 years of age, the family moved to Cleveland where she attended schools and lived most of her life. It is not known if she attended school in Greenville but it is assumed that during some of her early years, she would have been spent time in the schools here or in the one-room schools in our school district. She lived in Ohio for more than 100 years. She married Christopher Collins in 1926 and was married for 65 years until he died in 1991. She also survived cancer twice in her life. She had two children and was an "American supercentenarian".

There were eight members of the Mergler family who graduated from GHS between 1904 and 1942. The last two were **Betty Lee Mergler Stein**, GHS 1942, and **Joan Mergler Hawley**, GHS 1942. Joan was a former member of our Alumni Board of Directors and the Garst Museum Board, and was well respected and was very active in our community until her passing in 2017.

In 2007, Lona's two granddaughters brought her to the Greenville area to celebrate her 100th birthday. They looked up her childhood home near Pikeville, went to the church in Beamsville where Lona had attended, and visited the cemeteries in Beamsville and in Brock, where Annie Oakley is buried. In Greenville they visited their relative, **Joan Hawley**, during Lona's final visit "back to her home". Lona made a "HAWLEY" needlepoint for Joan at the time of her visit.

*Editor's Note: Joan was married to **Dr. Dan Hawley**, GHS 1937, and her children, **Rev. David Hawley**, GHS 1966, **John Hawley**, GHS 1967, **Jeff Hawley**, GHS 1969, and **Tom Hawley**, GHS 1975, are all shirt-tail relatives of Lona.*

Lona Mergler Collins (left 2 photos) / Joan Mergler Hawley (1942 G.H.S. Senior & recent)

Lona Collins	
	
Lona Collins at the age of 110.	
Birth:	18 June 1907 Medford, Oklahoma, USA
Death:	22 June 2019 Wickliffe, Ohio, USA
Age:	112 years, 4 days
Country:	 USA



GHS CLASS REUNIONS-2021 as of June 7, 2021

Attention: The Maid-Rite will not have their picnic area open this summer as of now

But the City Park is an available location to eat your carry-out Maid-Rites.

Combination of two different 5-year reunion groups (from 2020 and 2021).

Those having a reunion this year are underlined in green and highlighted in yellow:

- 1954 Jeanette Patton jeanettepat10@gmail.com
937-898-5645, Nancy Warner bilnanwarner@gmail.com
- 1955 Allen Hauberg, 1937allenh@gmail.com **Unknown**
- 1956 Duane Shields, deshields858@embarqmail.com , **NONE PLANNED FOR 2021**
- 1960 Dick Sommer, dicksommer42@gmail.com , Karen Wilson Nealeigh, nealeigh@woh.rr.com
NONE PLANNED FOR 2021 (Dick)
- 1961 Dick Wright, rwright3@woh.rr.com , **NONE PLANNED FOR 2021**, *Are planning a 61st next year in 2022*
- 1962 Alice Brown, aliceab@embarqmail.com , Georgia Young, georgia4362@hotmail.com
- 1963 Richard Martin, remartin@att.net , **Sat. Aug. 28, 6 pm**, at Sure Shot Tap House, E. 5th St.,
[Photo at 8:00](#)
- 1965 Gloria Mong Brubaker, gbrubaker3839@gmail.com **NONE PLANNED 2021**, *75th Birthday Party will be, Fri. Aug. 26, 2022, Open House, Picnic Sat. Aug. 27, 2022<<<*
- 1966 **Sat. Aug. 28, 5:00**, at American Legion, Ohio Street, [Photo at 6:30](#), Diana Hosbrook Sleppy, dobber23@embarqmail.com , Doug Lowder, dklowder@aol.com 937-548-1519
- 1969 Tom Trittschuh, trittschuh.t@richlandcourts.oh.us , trittschuht@yahoo.com
Debby Soddors, debbsoddors@gmail.com , Kyle Kagey kagevgk@yahoo.com
Fri. June 4, 6:00 – 8:30 pm, *70th B-day party at Shelter House 5 in City Park*
- 1970 Becky Pequignot Empie, robertempie@aol.com , Jan Garner, jangarner@woh.rr.com ,
NONE PLANNED FOR 2021, *Will have 70 year old party, Aug. 19, 2022, at J&J's on Rt. 502*
- 1971 Kathy McNutt Dapore, kadapore71@gmail.com , 937-459-2334, Roxanne Willman, willmancpa@woh.rr.com **Sat. July 17, 2021, 6 pm**, at J&J Enterprises, Rt. 502 W, [Photo 7:00](#)
- 1975 Greg Wilson, homeworkllc@yahoo.com , **NONE PLANNED FOR 2021**
- 1976 Bob Gueth, robert.gueth@gmail.com , **Sat. Aug. 21**, undisclosed location and times
Debbie Vaughn Augustine, freetobedeбра 7@hotmail.com
- 1980 Len Nealeigh, len@kolorkoteplastering.com , **Sat. Aug. 28**, at J&J Enterprises, Rt. 502,
6:00-12:00, [Photo at 8:00](#), David Hughes, lekker12@hotmail.com
- 1981 Connie Shiverdecker, shiverdeckerconnie@yahoo.com , **Sat. Aug. 21, 7:00-11:00**, Eagles, 113
E. 3rd St. snacks and sandwiches, playing 80s tunes, Connie Stollar, csstollar@yahoo.com
- 1985 Cheryl Sleppy Jennings, 937-569-8740, **No response**
ghs.1985reunite@gmail.com , <https://www.facebook.com/groups/291576534010>
- 1986 Andrea Coates Crowell, crowell94@comcast.net , Kelly Scudder, Kelly.scudder@aa.om
No response.
- 1990 Heather Hunt Brown, florcafehonduras@yahoo.com , *had bonfire in 2020, Reunion in 2021?*
- 1991 Nikki Sommer, nsommer@gcswave.com **NO PLANS KNOWN** (by Nikki)
- 1995 Rich Hadden II, rich.hadden@wright.edu , *Are waiting until 2025* (by Rich)
- 1996 Holly McCloud Kirkpatrick, mhlekkirk@gmail.com , 937-524-2512, **No response.**
- 2000 Kristin Rogers Jones, krstn_home@yahoo.com , **NONE PLANNED FOR 2021**, *Are planning for 2025*
- 2001 Lauren Warner, warnerLe@homail.com , **NONE PLANNED FOR 2021**, *Are planning for late summer, 2022*
- 2005 Jessica Hershey Bosserman, hershely44@gmail.com , Betsy Reiber, betsyrbrown@gmail.com
None Known

Continued >>>>>

- 2006** Lacie Roberts Reeser, 937-459-9615, laciereeser@gmail.com , **DATE and TIMES not set,**
at Ohio Signs on Benden Way Chassidy Glaze, Chassidy.glaze@gmail.com , Katie Hittle
Swank, hittleKL@miamioh.edu
- 2010** Danielle Bankson, dlbankson@gmail.com , Katie Erisman Bonfiglio,
katie_bonfiglio@yahoo.com , Kaylee Hartrum, khartrum@gcswave.com
- 2011** Jena Studabaker, jenastuda@gmail.com , 937-467-6522