



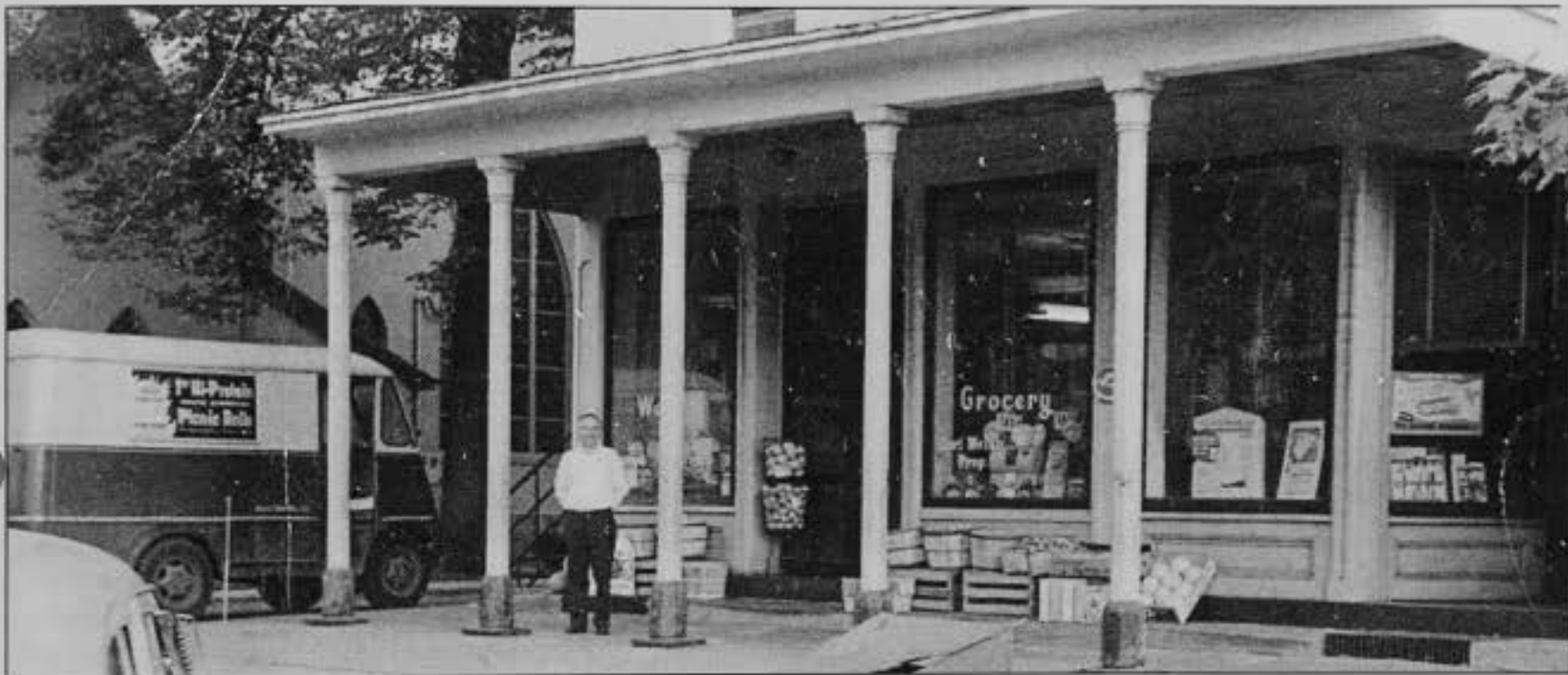
THE HISTORICAL TIMES

Quarterly of the Granville, Ohio, Historical Society

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116 E. Broadway



Carl Welsh outside his grocery at 116 East Broadway. The ground level of the building served as a grocery from 1910 (when the Perry Grocery moved into the building) until 1977, a few months after the death of Carl Welsh, who took over the business in 1938 and ran it for 39 years. Photo courtesy of Jim and Jennifer Welsh.

‘Masonic building’ downtown has seen many manifestations

By LYN BOONE

Do you ever wonder about the history of the downtown buildings in which Granvilleans go about their daily lives — shopping, meeting friends, banking, sharing a meal, or even getting their hair cut? Some of Granville's commercial buildings are quite old, and they've had multiple uses over their years. For those of us who find meaning in the past as well as the present, the editorial board of *The Historical Times* has decided to launch a series on the Village's busi-

ness buildings, tracing what we can know of their history and enterprises. We begin with a building that is quite familiar - the large three-story, stucco-covered brick structure at 116 East Broadway (across the alley, called Linden Place, from the Methodist Church). Nowadays, the building at 116 houses Brews Café. Depending on how old you are, you may remember two or three other occupants of this building during your lifetime. But what about back beyond that?

The building's origins and misleading dates

Many people who see the lettering on the upper front of the building assume that it was built in 1811 — but it wasn't. The third story of the building façade sports the dates 1811 and 1912, along with the symbol of the Freemasons, the square and compass, and the name of Granville's

Lyn Boone is a member of the Historical Times Editorial Board and is a retired Denison Administrator. She is a frequent contributor to this journal. As she notes, this is the first of a series of biographies of Granville buildings.



116 East Broadway (far left storefront) around 1900, before the addition of the third floor. Note the lettering on the building, designating it “The Linden Flats.” (Photo courtesy of the Granville Historical Society)

Masonic chapter, Center Star Lodge No. 11. 1811 was the year of the founding of Center Star Lodge No. 11, and 1912 was the year in which the third story was added to the building, to provide accommodations large enough for the growing community of Granville Masons. The building is sometimes still called “Masonic Hall.” But the Masons did not construct the entire building, nor was it built in 1811.

The original brick structure, consisting of a basement and two stories, was actually built in 1858 or 1859 by prominent Granville citizen William S. Wright. We don’t know the exact year of its construction because the Rev. Henry Bushnell evidently wasn’t sure. In his 1880 *History of Granville*, Bushnell comments that Wright purchased the stock of “the co-operative store” in 1857, and “A year or two later he (Wright) built the large brick store building on the east side of the Public Square and north of Broad, and occupied it under the firm, William S. Wright and Sons.” Indeed, the 1860 Granville census lists William S. Wright and sons William Jr. and Edgar as merchants. While little documentation survives about that first business, in all likelihood the Wrights dealt in dry goods. Certainly the succeeding businesses did.

Many Years of Dry Goods Commerce

In 1861, just two or three years after constructing the building, the elder Wright sold it to his son William S. Wright and son-in-law Austin W. Follett. William Jr. soon sold out his interest to Follett, and the firm became Follett Brothers. Ownership continued to turn over fairly rapidly in succeeding years as partnerships waxed and waned.

Changes in the business proprietorships did not necessarily go hand-in-glove with ownership of the building itself. However, Bushnell’s list of firms occupying the building is corroborated roughly by the history of real estate sales: After the sale to the Folletts, the property was sold in 1861 to Delia M. and James Dilley, who created the firm, Dilley, Park & Co. By 1872 the store was named Dilley & Goodrich; George Goodrich in 1873; then Goodrich & Craig; and R.F. Craig by 1878. The *Granville Times* tells us that B. Crook was proprietor of the business by 1884. In the same year, the building itself was sold to Richard Graham, who held the property for two years. Graham sold the property in 1887 to Denison Professor Almon Thresher, who held it for almost twenty years.

Each of the deeds in these transfers recites the specifications of the property (note that the change in the 1860s to a new lot-numbering system is referenced): ...being the west part of lot number seven (7), re-numbered one hundred and fifteen (115) in the tenth block of lots and ... bounded as follows:

Commencing at the southeast corner of the brick store room on said premises; thence west thirty-two (32) feet and six (6) inches; then north one hundred and fifty-two (152) feet, thence east thirty-two (32) feet and six (6) inches to the place of beginning...

The dizzying succession of proprietors in the store during this period probably did not reflect a substantial difference in the stock offered for sale by the dry goods businesses. Several aging ledgers held in the Archives of the Granville Historical Society attest to the wool trade conducted by

some of these firms as early as 1862, and the ledger of the general store of George Goodrich, covering October 1869 to April 1870, offers a glimpse at the range of goods and prices of that era: spool of thread, 10 cents; pair of shoes, \$2.50; bar of soap, 12 cents; pair of pants, \$6.82; and 3 1/3 pounds of coffee, \$1.00. Dilley & Goodrich's firm advertised, "Special attention to the Manufacture of Clothing," with "A large and well selected stock of Patterns, of the latest styles, constantly on hand. A first class cutter [is] employed, who always guarantees a neat fit!" Besides the *Granville Times*, several short-lived local publications, such as the *Granville Daily News* and the *Licking Monitor*, bear witness to the merchandise and prices of the day. In 1885, proprietor B. Crook was running ads for dry goods of various sorts,

including white goods (household linens), collars, laces, oil cloths, and "A stock of Shoes and Slippers for old ladies." Clothing tailored to fit was a standard item. In 1888, Crook offered men's suits for the startling price of \$1.95!

Late 19th, early 20th centuries

The succession of businesses in the building at 116 East Broadway becomes somewhat difficult to trace for a few years before and after the turn of the century. Dry goods proprietor B. Crook did not advertise much, and it isn't easy to determine when his firm ceased doing business in the



On the far left is the building after the 1912 addition of the third floor, and during the grocery proprietorship of L.W. Perry & Sons. This photo was taken before stucco and paint were used to harmonize the older part of the building with the addition. (Photo courtesy of the Granville Historical Society)

building. *The Granville Times* does tell us, however, that by 1903 Crook was in California, so it's doubtful he still owned the store. There could well have been several other businesses in the space from the early 1890s through the first few years of the 1900s, but tracking these unambiguously would be a painstaking process. However, we do know from an ad in *The Denisonian* that in 1899 (and possibly earlier), barber Wilbur Ransom was running the "College Tonsorial Parlor" in the "first building east of the M.E. Church." The main space of the first floor of the building was evidently partitioned at some point during this time period to allow for two businesses with storefronts, and probably Ransom's business occupied one of these, a conjecture that is buoyed by Granvillean Minnie Hite Moody's testimony. Writing in 1963 for the *Newark Advocate* about the businesses along the north side of Broadway as they stood when she was a small child a few years after the turn of the century, Moody remembers Wilbur Ransom's barbershop and Squire Malone's Hats and Tailoring shop, before citing Piper's Meats and other businesses in order going east. Piper's Meats was next door to 116 East Broadway.

In 1905 Ransom sold his enterprise to fellow barber

R. F. CRAIG,
GRANVILLE, O.
 Dealer in
Dry Goods, Notions,
BOOTS & SHOES.

ALSO A GOOD LINE OF LADIES'
 AND GENTS' FURNISHING
 GOODS.

I keep NO Ready-made Clothing.

*BUT I KEEP A FULL LINE
 OF FOREIGN & AMER-
 ICAN CLOTHS AND
 CASSIMERES.*

A FIRST CLASS CUTTER.

always employed in this department.
 Suits made to order and warranted to fit.
 I will sell Goods as cheap as any house
 in the county. *Come and be convinced.*
 Thankful for past patronage and hop-
 ing to meet the same hereafter, by square
 dealing

I am Respectfully,
R. F. CRAIG.

R.F. Craig was proprietor of the dry goods store at 116 East Broadway in 1878. This ad appeared on the front page of the October 23rd edition of *The Granville Daily News* that year.

Charles Perrin, who was in business there in 1906 when Professor Thresher sold the property to L.W. Perry. That transaction was described in the *Granville Times* as the sale of his “2 business rooms on Broadway now occupied by Charles Perrin and J.C. Malone.” He paid \$6,000 for the property. At the time, Perry was cited as remarking that he didn’t know if he would “occupy it for a grocery,” so evidently Perrin and Malone got to stay for a while. But a few years later, a 1910 *Granville Times* notice announced that grocer Lewis W. Perry was indeed moving his grocery (founded in 1888) to that site. Perry occupied the west side of the ground floor, and the east side by this time was the site of a tea room known as “Tea Cups,” which remained there for a few more years, becoming the “Little Gem” Restaurant in 1913.

Information about use of the second floor of the building during this period is even more elusive, and remains so up until the appearance of Village directories in the 1920s. Suffice it to say that the rooms were no doubt variously occupied by businesses and private residences. We know, for example, that dentist Jacob W. Rohrer opened his office in 1908 in the “Linden Flats,” as the units were called at the time. He was probably located on the second floor. We’ll hear more about Rohrer and other second-floor occupants shortly.

The Masonic Temple

The landmark change in the building — the addition of the third story for the Masons to use as a temple — came in 1912. The Free and Accepted Masons, whose Granville lodge had been chartered in 1811, had used other sites as meeting places in the 19th century, such as the Elias Gilman house and the old brick school at the head of Main Street. A notice in the *Granville Times* in January of 1912 called the Masons to a meeting to discuss the question of building a new lodge. “Plans and specifications have been prepared for the building of a third story on the Perry Building,” the announcement said, “and will be on exhibition at that time.” A later summary of the meeting reports that the plans included “a lodge room, anti-room [sic], preparation room, banquet room and toilet room. The estimated cost is \$3,200.” Of course, a fund-raising campaign was also announced, with the goal of raising \$3,000 by March 1, 1912. By April the organization had signed a 99-year lease on the site. Lewis (“L.W.”) Perry, owner of the building, did not live to see the



Guy Rodes and James Clark working on the addition to the building (photo courtesy of Virginia Williams)

completion of the third story. He died in October of 1912.

The official dedication of the new lodge was held at a gala event in June of 1914. A little over a year later, in September of 1915, a fire broke out in the building that “threatened to be one of the most disastrous in the history of the Village.” The newspaper account reports that the fire was in the kitchen of Alex Roberts, one of the second-floor tenants. Local firefighters were hindered in their efforts by faulty equipment, and assistance from Newark was sought as the fire started to spread to other buildings. The Newark firemen came to Granville on the interurban car, but fortunately the fire was under control by the time they arrived. Mr. Roberts’ home was almost a total loss, and there was



The Welsh Family (from left, Martha, Pat, Jim, Nancy, and Carl) inside the Grocery in 1949. (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Welsh and Family)

significant damage to the grocery stock and the Little Gem Restaurant downstairs, and to the equipment of Dr. Rohrer, the dentist mentioned earlier. The new Masonic Temple, however, escaped harm except for smoke damage.

The Masons used their third-story quarters faithfully for seventy years, and departed only when the rooms were deemed unsafe in 1982, according to a 1985 pamphlet printed for the dedication of the Heath Masonic Complex, which incorporated the Granville group. Kim McPeck Downs, whose family lived for years in a large apartment on the second floor, remembers the Masons as kindly neighbors who accessed the building via an exterior stair on the west side of the building, and then trooped down the interior hallway past her family's front door, to the stair to the third floor.

The era of groceries - Perry & Welsh

During virtually the same seven decades in which the Masons used the third floor, the larger, west section of the street level of the building was used as a grocery store — successively under the names of Perry and Welsh. When grocer Lewis W. Perry opened his newly-located grocery there in 1910, the *Granville Times* reported with approval that “Mr. Perry has fitted up the large rooms in this building especially for his business, and when he has finished and stocked the place with a new line of goods, will have

one of the largest and most complete grocery stores in this section.” Minnie Hite Moody, always a great source for nostalgia, remembered the sight of old Mr. Perry dipping two-for-a-nickel pickles in the grocery: “...with luck [we would be] waited on by Mr. Perry himself, who wore a beard which would come up dripping with brine and vinegar if the pickles happened to be far down in the barrel.” She recalled equally well Squire Malone's hat store next door in the east part of the building, with “hats of every description reposed on its shelves...”

When L.W. Perry died in 1912, his twin sons Ira and Era Perry (who had already been involved in the business) took over the store. Together they ran this mainstay of Granville commerce until Era retired in 1923 (he died nine years later). Ira continued the business and by the early 1930s had acquired the help of a young assistant, Carl Welsh, who became renowned locally as a butcher. Welsh would become owner of the grocery less than a decade later, after Ira died in 1937. As a team, Perry and Welsh must have had their work cut out for them, for during the 1930s there was plenty of competition in the grocery sphere: no fewer than seven different groceries are listed in the 1932 Granville Directory, and all but one of them were on Broadway!

It would be 1942 before Carl Welsh became owner of the building, and then it would stay in the family for more than 60 years. But he acquired the business itself in 1938, and,



Carl Welsh's Grocery following the modernization of the façade. This photo shows the partition of the storefront into two shops, the larger on the west. The small east-side shop was used by James Remmele for his financial services office during part of the time that Welsh's Grocery was on the west side. (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Welsh and Family)

in spite of initially retaining the Perry name for the grocery, he held a "grand opening" on February 12th. To bring the customers in, he announced that ten large baskets of groceries would be given away. A pound of Chase & Sanborn Coffee sold that week for 17 cents, and large packages of Post Toasties went for two for 19 cents. Texas seedless grapefruits were listed for 35 cents a dozen, a deal that Fuller's Grocery, the competitor just a few storefronts away, was not able to match, offering the same item for 23 cents per half-dozen.

Sometime over the years, Perry's became Welsh's Grocery. Clearly the business was to become a centerpiece of Granville activity and the location of many memories. Jenny Welsh, who would become the daughter-in-law of Carl and Martha, recalls buying apples there for lunch as a schoolchild. Years later, as a young bride, she would work in the store to help out, selling goods and produce that were stocked not only inside the store, but also in baskets and crates that lined the front of the store outside. Along with her mother, Jenny's daughter Amy Welsh remembers the tempting choices of penny candy, which must have made an indelible impression on generations of schoolchildren. Steve Smith, writing a *Granville Sentinel* column in 1983, recalled that Welsh's in his youth "always had one of the best candy selections, and on cold mornings was a haven from the bus stop ... Carl always had the best doughnuts at

7:30 in the morning."

At one point (the date is no longer in memory's grasp), Welsh remodeled the front of the building and removed the columned portico to update the storefront (see accompanying photo). Eventually the pillared entryway was restored, however. For much of the time that Welsh's Grocery was in operation, the smaller storefront on the building's east side was occupied by James Remmele, who offered insurance and other financial services.

Welsh's Grocery was closed by Martha Welsh on May 14, 1977, following Carl's death in February. It and its family of proprietors had served the Granville community in that location for 39 years, succeeding Perry's 28 years as a grocer in the same building.

Residential Memories

The second floor of the building at 116 East Broadway (numbered 116 1/2) had a life and history of its own, but there are large gaps in our information about it. While some professional activity was located there, residential use seems to have predominated, at least in the 20th century. Amy Welsh, granddaughter of Carl and Martha Welsh, lived there herself for several years as a young college graduate but that was some years after the family grocery was gone. She occupied the front apartment that looked out onto

Broadway, and recalls hearing the opening and closing of the front door to First Federal Savings and Loan, which was the tenant of the main floor at the time. The third floor had no occupant at all during Amy's residence.

Kim McPeek Downs had a much longer residence in the building — she spent her entire childhood there (1958-1976). Indeed, the McPeek family lived there even before Kim was born. They occupied the middle apartment of the second floor, the largest of the four units (there were two smaller apartments at the back of the building). Kim recalls the apartment as “huge,” with living room, two bedrooms, two baths, and a kitchen. She has many fond memories of the space there, including the bay window in the living room (on the west side), in which the family set its Christmas tree; and the exterior catwalk between her building and the next building to the east, which housed Cunard's Jewelry on the first floor.

East-facing windows in the McPeek apartment looked out on the narrow elevated walkway, and Kim recounts stories not only of visits from neighbors via the kitchen window, but also sneaking out of her bedroom window, in pursuit of teen-aged adventure. Welsh's Grocery on the first floor was her mother's convenient grocery source, and Kim remembers frequent trips downstairs for supplies. “The first time I was ever in a large urban grocery store,” she said, “was in 1976 when I moved to Columbus.” For Kim, especially memorable impressions of Welsh's include the huge canisters of frozen cherries that were unloaded at the grocery's back door, and, of course, her ability to charge candy at the counter inside.

First Federal Savings and Loan

Jenny Welsh remembers that the main floor of Masonic Hall stood empty for a couple of years after the 1977 closing of Welsh's Grocery, during which time the front of the property was used at least twice as the location for Santa Claus and his house during Granville's holiday celebration (Christmas 1977 and 1978). In the meantime, First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Newark decided to lease the main floor to move its Granville office there from its previous location just down the block at 134 East Broadway. The S&L was then under the management of Glen Wince, who wanted more space for operations as well as a drive-up window. Renovations to the building includ-



A close-up of Welsh's Grocery in the early years. Note the “Anniversary Sale” signage in the windows, and Centenary United Methodist Church in the background. (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Welsh and Family)

ed the installation of that service window, a night depository, bay windows on the front of the building, a large teller counter, and other changes. The apartments on the second floor remained occupied privately.

A gala opening for the new office of the S&L was held on August 27, 1980, hosted by the First Federal executives from Newark, and featuring the awarding of door prizes (a microwave oven and television), radio coverage by WCLT radio, and refreshments for all. The building was to remain in service as First Federal for 25 years. Employee Patricia Holcombe, now First Federal's New Accounts Officer, remembers the “creepy basement” in the building, but also that the alley to the west (Linden Place) allowed for easy access to the drive-up window, which was very convenient for customers. “It was nice being on Granville's ‘main drag,’” said Brenda Collins, Customer Service Supervisor. She laughs about the chronically cold bathroom and a few other quirks in the old building. But along with her colleague Patricia, she remembers that overall, the location at 116 East Broadway was a good place to cultivate a friendly atmosphere in the middle of the village. When First Federal moved to its current location on Prospect Street, the building was sold for the first time since the transfer to Carl Welsh in 1942.

Other uses over the years

The attempt to trace the year-by-year occupancy history

of Masonic Hall reveals all too clearly the difficulty of verifying such a trail for historical periods in which documentation was not necessarily a priority. One reason is that business directories for Granville in the 1920s and 1930s did not list street addresses — it was enough to list your business as “on Broadway,” or not to give an address at all. Some businesses, notably barbershops and other small concerns, moved around frequently among available buildings. And some landlords, such as Perry himself, owned more than one building, so that to say a business was “in the Perry building” did not necessarily pin it down to an address. Finally, not all periods of Granville history are covered by newspapers, leaving gaps in the daily commercial record.

Some additional uses of the building can definitely be identified, however, even if precise occupancies are often obscure. For example, in 1905, the holdings of the Granville Historical Society (then in search of a permanent home) were stored briefly in the building. And in 1915, a ladies’ philanthropic group, the King’s Daughters, rented a room on the second floor to accommodate their increasing membership and activities. There is some evidence that during the early years of the 20th century, other barbershops came and went from the building, and possibly another dentist or two. A seamstress named Sarah Weber conducted her business from the second floor in the 1920s, and lived there as well. Indeed, a succession of residents occupied the Linden Flats and are listed in the early Granville Directories (the earliest held by the Historical Society is the directory for 1921).

And now it’s Brews

The property stayed under Welsh family ownership until 2003, when it was sold to Brews and Blues Holdings LLC, and the rest of the story is no doubt well-known to many readers. Brews Café, one of Granville’s most popular sites for food and spirits, opened on May 27, 2006 after several years of planning and construction. Renovations featured an initially controversial second-floor balcony that patrons can now regularly enjoy in good weather, an elevator, and an interior atrium that lends an air of open conviviality to the two floors of restaurant seating. Another social space, Brews Too, occupies what was once the hallowed hall of the Masons on the third floor. Brews’ use of the building is almost certainly the first time that all three floors of 116 East Broadway have been used by a single business. The next time you’re in there, listen for echoes of dry goods commerce, grocery sales, banking transactions, and life at large. The building has had a long history as a focal point on Broadway, and seems destined to continue at the center of Granville life for many years to come.



Brews Café in 2011. Note the dining balcony, added as part of the renovation in 2006. (Photo courtesy of Keith Boone)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to the persons who provided invaluable assistance with the research for this article: Theresa Overholser and Florence Hoffman, Archivists for the Granville Historical Society; and Alan Huggins, who has shared his valuable research on Granville’s barbers from the 1880s to the 1930s. She also is greatly indebted to the persons who so willingly gave of their time to contribute first-person memories of their associations with the building at 116 East Broadway: Jenny and Amy Welsh; Kim McPeck Downs; and Brenda Collins, Patricia Holcombe, and Sarah Wallace of First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Newark, Ohio.

SOURCES

Printed sources for this research included newspapers, histories, deeds and property transfer records, village directories, atlases, and various files from the holdings of the Granville Historical Society.

Issues of several short-lived local newspapers from the late 19th century were crucial in documenting the dry goods proprietorships in the building at 116 East Broadway during the 1870s and 1880s. These papers included the *Granville Daily News*, the *Licking Monitor*, the *Granville Graphic*, and the *Granville Trade Journal*. Early editions of the *Granville Times* provided additional information about the dry goods stores. The

Times was published from 1880 to 1940/41 with the exception of the period of World War I. It served as a source for frequent references about the Perry and Welsh grocery stores, the Masonic Temple, barber shops, dentists, restaurants, and short items about residents of The Linden Flats. Especially notable was the *Granville Times* issue of July 31, 1930, which contains a long article citing not only the active businesses in Granville in 1930, but also the many businesses that had advertised in the *Times* since its inception, along with a compendium of businesses that advertised in the *Granville Intelligencer*, another newspaper that preceded the *Times* in the 19th century. Much of the information from the 1930 *Granville Times* issue was repeated and updated in articles in a special edition of the *Granville Times* in 1955, titled "Retail Stores as They Are in 1955" and "Business Places Past and Present Part of Granville, by George Stuart (Granville's Oldest Merchant). Because it described a location for those not familiar with the village, the January 13, 1899 edition of Denison University's student newspaper, *The Denisonian*, was key for determining the building occupancy of barber Wilbur Ransom. *The Granville Sentinel* provided stories on the location of Santa's house in the late 1970s, the First Federal Savings & Loan occupancy of the building in 1980, and the transition to Brews Café in the early 2000s. *The Sentinel*, the *Community Booster*, and the *Newark Advocate* contributed the invaluable "memory round-up" columns by authors looking back on Granville businesses as remembered in their childhoods. These authors were Minnie Hite Moody, Ann Schellens, and Steve Smith. Their columns can be accessed easily at the Granville Historical Society, with the help of the Archivists. Finally, the Winter/Spring 2002 issue of the newsletter of the Granville Historical Society, the *Historical Times*, contains a photo of the "Perry Building," attesting to the temporary location there of the Historical Society's holdings in 1905.

Granville census records of 1860 and 1870 were consulted, along

with village directories for available years starting in 1921. The earliest of these were published variously by Thomas E. Hite & Co. and Simhite Directory Company. Also useful were the 19th-century atlases, *Atlas of Licking County, Ohio*, by Beers, Soule & Co., 1866 and *Combination Atlas Map of Licking County, Ohio*, by L.H. Everts, 1875.

Granville historians will recognize the key Granville histories, which provide the core foundation for local historical research: the Rev. Henry Bushnell's *The History of Granville*, Press of Hann & Adair, Columbus, Ohio, 1889 (see especially p. 294 for succession of dry goods stores at 116 East Broadway); William T. Utter's *Granville: The Story of an Ohio Village*, Granville Historical Society and Denison University, 1956; and the three-volume bicentennial history, *Granville, Ohio: A Study in Continuity and Change*, edited by Anthony J. Lisska and Louis I. Middleman, Granville Historical Society and Denison University Press, 2004.

Archival holdings of the Granville Historical Society that were especially useful were 19th-century business ledgers including item number 83-25, Account of Wool Bot [sic] by Follet & Wright for G.B. Johnston, 1862, as well as the ledger (under the same item number) of the general store of George Goodrich, October 1869 - April 1870. Other holdings in file number 83-025, "Business Locations," were useful as well, along with File number 83-36, "Granville Historical Society Historical Locations;" item 83-52, the Wright Family File; and a 1985 pamphlet, "Dedication of Heath Masonic Complex," in the file on Granville's Masons.

With the exception of property transfer records found in the Office of the Recorder at the Licking County Court House, and the collection of back issues of the *Granville Sentinel*, available at the Granville Public Library, all of the above-cited resources may be found at the Granville Historical Society.

Membership Application

Granville Historical Society, P.O. Box 129, Granville, OH 43023-0129

YES, I would like to renew my membership in or join the Granville Historical Society.

Membership dues for one year - \$35.

I/We would like to make an additional donation of:

\$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ Other _____

Please make your check payable to the **Granville Historical Society**.

Thank you for your interest in the Granville Historical Society. \$30 of your membership dues and all of your donation are tax-deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email* _____

* To make sure that you receive our new email newsletter, The Modern Times, please include your email.

Denison alumnus played in first professional football game

Granville's Wilkie O. Moody led a remarkable life

By KEVIN BENNETT

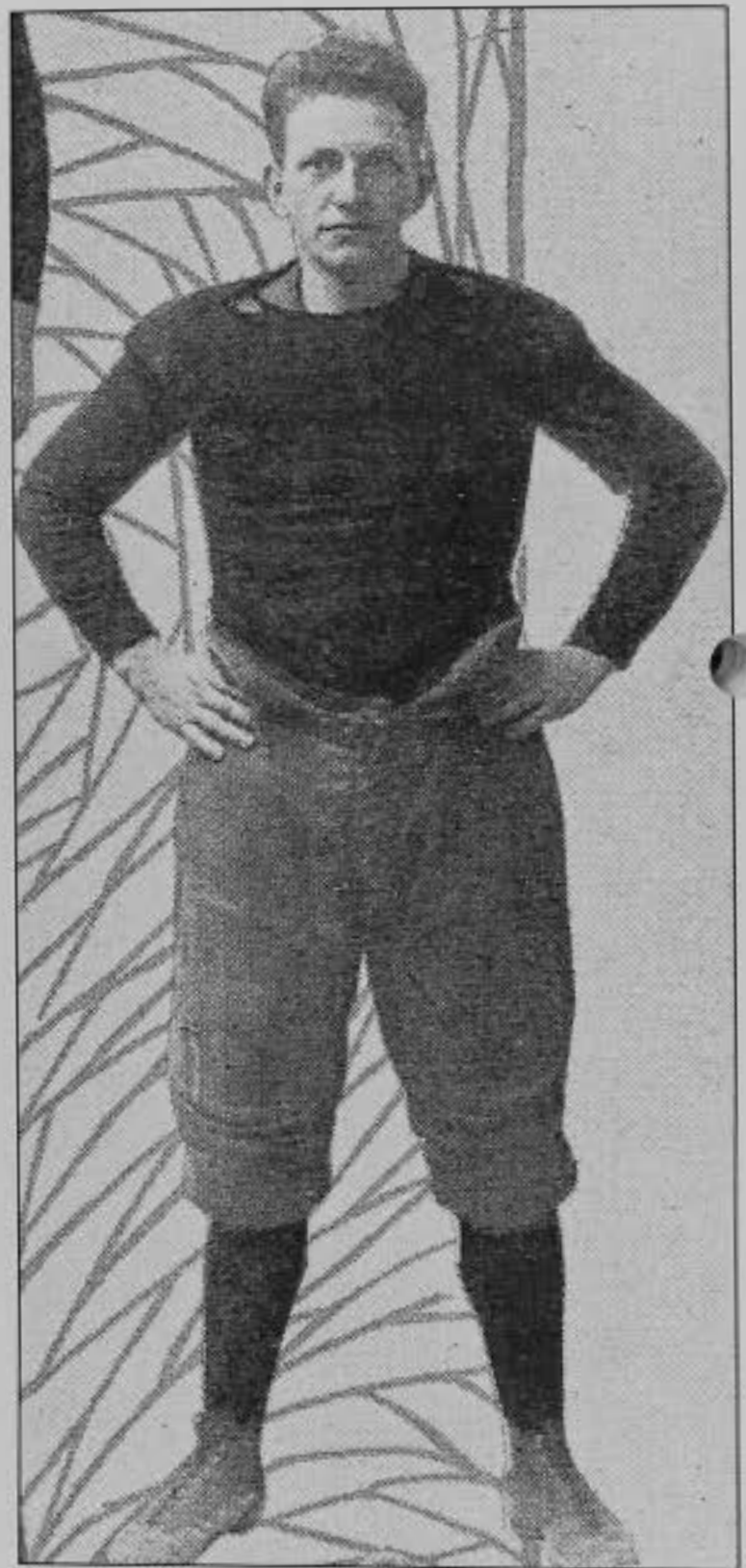
With the recent resolution of the NFL strike and the advent of another football season, I often reflect upon the rich local football history. While Granville has been home to several others who competed at the professional level (Jim Barton, "Ike" Eikenberry, and John Tavener come to mind), the achievements of Wilkie Osgood Moody have been largely forgotten. A stellar player on the 1916 Denison University football squad, Moody was an early pioneer of pro football while playing for the Columbus Panhandles. In this role he was a starting player in what has been designated as the first game of the National Football League (NFL).

THE SON OF MISSIONARIES

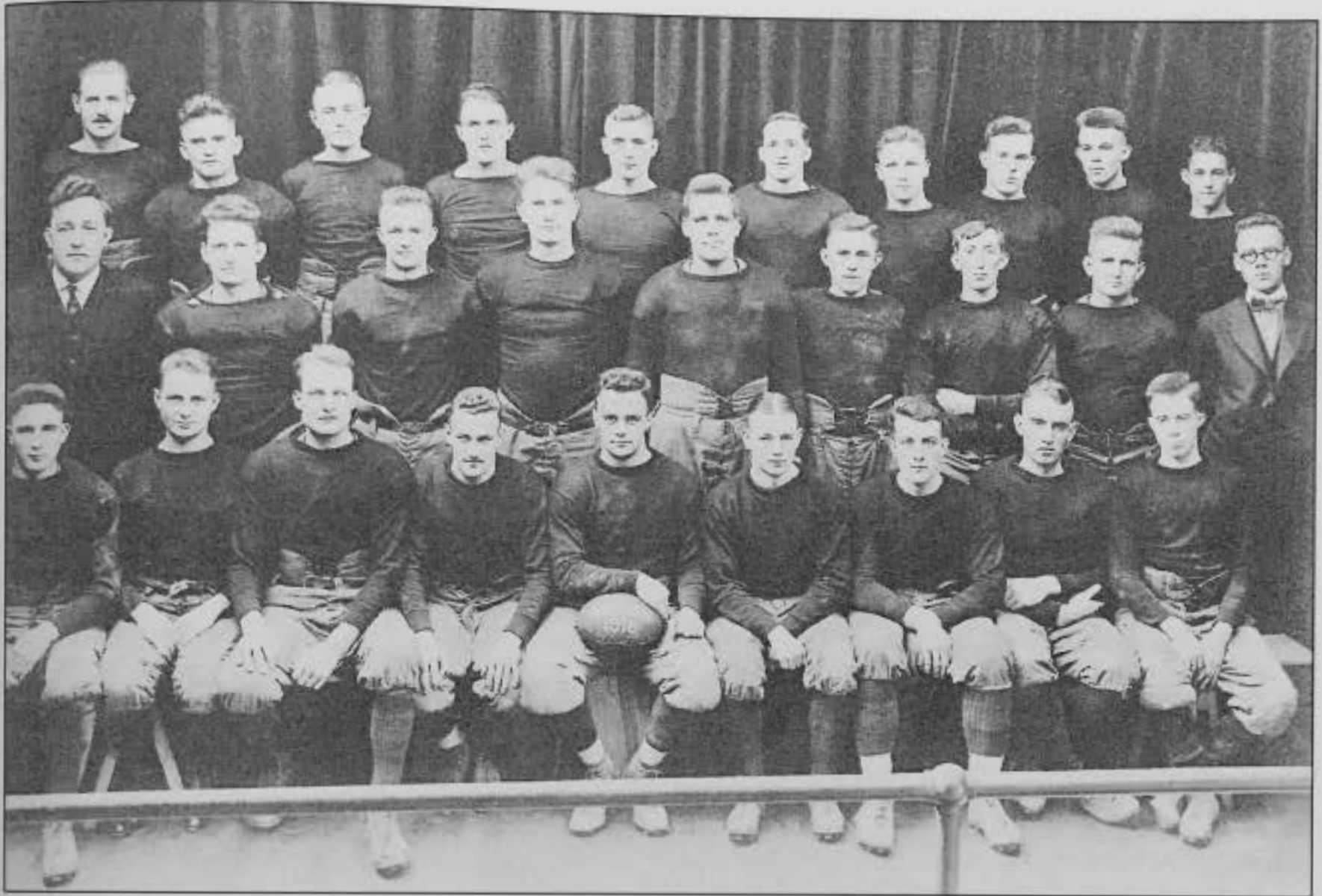
Long overshadowed by the accomplishments of his wife, noted journalist and author, Minnie Hite Moody, Wilkie Moody led an extraordinary life. Born in 1897 to missionary parents at Irabo, Belgian Congo, he and his parents barely survived the attack of a cannibal tribe when he was but 6 months old. Obviously concerned with the safety of their child and resolutely focused on their mission work, Moody's parents consigned him to the care of grandparents in Canada. Over the remainder of his childhood, Moody and his sister Grace were largely raised by relatives and family friends, sometimes apart. On the average, the Moody children saw their parents every five years. His parents' single minded dedication to missionary work spanned over 50 years and earned them personal recognition by King Leopold of Belgium. His mother, Elizabeth Wilkie Moody, died and was buried at her mission in the Congo in 1938.

Wilkie was afforded excellent educational opportunities, attending the Grand Island (Nebraska) Academy and the Colby (New Hampshire) Academy. He attended Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia before transferring to Denison University for his sophomore year in 1915. It appears that he had never played organized football until encouraged by legendary Denison coach Walter Livingston to try out for the team for the 1916 season. At 5'7", 185 lbs., Moody was hardly an imposing physical presence, yet his agility and toughness earned him a starter's role as both a guard on the offensive line and a defensive back.

Kevin Bennett is a former president of the Granville Historical Society and is an attorney retired from the U.S. Army. Kevin is a frequent contributor to this journal.



This is a cropped picture of Wilkie Moody in his Denison University football gear from the 1917 DU yearbook. From the Denison Archives.



Pictured is the 1916 Denison University football team. Moody is the second from the left in the second row, next to legendary Coach Walter Livingston. Photo courtesy of Denison Sports Information Office.

FOOTBALL STANDOUT AT DENISON

Wilkie Moody's gridiron accomplishments helped the 1916 Denison squad to another standout season in which they were Ohio Conference champions. During this period Denison football competed at a higher level and routinely played against such giants as Ohio State, Miami and Cincinnati to name a few. As such, there was considerable fan interest in the local area and it was rare game in which Deeds Field was not packed with spectators. Among the admiring fans in the stands that year was Miss Minnie Hite, of Granville, who lived with her grandmother and mother at nearby Tannery Hill. Although she was several years younger than Moody, they began seeing each other socially after the season.

SOLDIER IN WORLD WAR I

Unfortunately the events of nations often times interfere with personal lives and the looming involvement of the United States in World War I did so with Wilkie Moody and Minnie Hite. In early 1917 he enlisted in the Ohio National Guard as a private, quickly rising to the rank of Sergeant in several months. His military duties being full time, he was

absent for considerable periods for training and was forced to suspend his attendance at Denison. In July 1918 he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Army and assumed command of a newly formed company in the 802nd Infantry. A black regiment officered by whites, the unit was scheduled to deploy to the war zone in France in late September. While feverishly working to prepare his unit for war, Moody found time to have recently graduated Granville High School student Miss Minnie Hite travel by train to Fort, Jackson, South Carolina. There in early September 1918 they were wed at the Post Chapel. After the briefest of honeymoons, Lt. Moody boarded a ship with his unit for France, the new Mrs. Moody returned to her family home in Granville.

Arriving in France in early October, Lt. Moody and his unit arrived too late to see active combat with the Armistice taking effect on November 11. It did however perform important logistical support for the occupation forces over the course of the next year. Departing France and being discharged in late July 1919, now Captain Wilkie returned to his home in Granville and re-enrolled at Denison in early 1920 to complete his degree requirements.

SIGNS WITH PRO FOOTBALL

His resumption of studies at Denison did not include a return to the football team. With the birth of his first child in December 1919, Moody was faced with the financial responsibilities of supporting his family. Instead of college ball, he decided to utilize his gridiron talents in the newly emerging professional arena. He signed a contract with the nearby Columbus Panhandles. This team was one of the charter members of the American Professional Football Association, consisting of teams in 14 different cities. This league, which was initially headed by the legendary Jim Thorpe, was the forerunner of the NFL, changing its name in 1922. The first game of the league was played on October 3, 1920 with the Columbus team playing the host Dayton Triangles. Before a crowd of around 5,000, the Columbus Panhandles lost a 14-0 decision. The site is now marked by an Ohio Historical marker denoting it as the first football contest in the NFL. Wilkie Moody started the game, playing both offense and defense. Primarily a lineman on offense, he also carried the ball twice, netting 7 yards.

Moody played the entire 1920 season with the Columbus Panhandles although they did not enjoy the level of success he experienced at Denison, finishing 13th out of the 14 teams in the league. Recruited primarily from local men employed at the shops and rail yards of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the team found it hard to compete against those teams recruiting and signing top college players. Unlike the lucrative pro contracts of today, Moody played under an incentive contract: \$100 for each win, \$75 for each tie, and \$50 for each loss. Equipment rental fees were deducted from each paycheck.

Graduating from Denison in 1920 with a degree in physical education, Wilkie Moody signed with the Dayton

Triangles for the 1921 season. At Dayton, he joined another noted Denison alumnus, George Roudebush, who played an instrumental role in introducing the forward pass into the college game. After a one year hiatus from the professional



Moody while in Atlanta.

game, Moody re-signed with the Columbus team (now the Tigers) for the 1924 and 1925 seasons. Now 28, Moody quit the NFL for good after the 1925 season and took a position as the football coach and instructor at Warren High School in Ohio. The next year he coached at Clarion State College in Pennsylvania. Following his stint there, he took his family to Atlanta, Georgia where he served until the 1960s as an instructor, coach and athletic director in

the city high schools. It was also there that his wife Minnie's career as a journalist and author flourished.

LATER YEARS

After his retirement, the "Coach" and Minnie returned to live at the family home at Tannery Hill, adjacent to the Granville Golf Course. An avid golfer, he remained active in the community and content to let Minnie absorb public attention while he enjoyed retirement. Wilkie O. Moody died on February 22, 1976 and is buried along with Minnie in the peaceful and rolling Welsh Hills cemetery outside Granville. Self-effacing, he appears to have made little mention of his professional football career or his involvement in the historic first NFL game. This hopefully will shed a long overdue spotlight on the life of this remarkable educator, coach, soldier and athlete.

Historical Times/Publications Committee

The Granville Historical Society's new Publications Board/*Historical Times* Editorial Board is pictured here. Seated, from left, are Dick Shiels; Bill Kirkpatrick, editor of the *Pocket History Series*; Chuck Peterson; Maggie Brooks, editor of the online *Modern Times* publication; Lyn Boone; and Marianne Lisska. Standing from left are Stewart Dyke, Jamie Hale, and committee chair and *Historical Times* Editor Tom Martin.



South Wales to North Mountain: A Granville soldier's story

By MEGAN BURDETTE

One hundred and fifty years have passed since the sons, brothers, fathers, and husbands of Granville Township bid farewell to their families and the comforts of home, and answered President Lincoln's call for troops to defend the Union against the rebel Confederacy.

The significance of Granville's contribution to the war effort should not be underestimated. Over 600 Granville men served in the Union army by war's end, with many recognized for their bravery and dedication to the cause, even during some of the bloodiest battles of the conflict.¹

But with their success came great sacrifice. The 113th O.V.I.'s involvement in the battle of Chickamauga resulted in the deaths of eight of Granville's own, with 28 wounded, dying, or unaccounted for.² Such a loss would have been felt very keenly, especially considering the size of the Granville community. Even those soldiers who were fortunate enough to return home alive were badly scarred both emotionally and physically, and many never recovered.

These sacrifices inspired me to delve more deeply into my own family's involvement in the war effort, specifically to uncover the details of my great-great-uncle Evan E. Jones' service to the Union Army. Until my own investigation, Evan's place in our family history had remained something of a mystery. My family knew only that he had died at age 46, unmarried and childless, and that, according to the weathered brass marker next to his tombstone, he had served in the Grand Army of the Republic in the 135th Infantry. My research took me across the Atlantic to his place of birth in Cardiganshire, Wales, then on to the Welsh Hills of Granville Township where he and his family settled, and eventually, in 1864, to North Mountain in Hedgesville, West Virginia, where the course of the remainder of his life was decided.

In this article I will relay the details of his military service, his participation in the disastrous battle of North Mountain, and the personal effect that military service seemingly had on him and his brothers in arms.

Megan Burdette is serving an internship in marketing in Washington, DC, following her May graduation from Denison. This is the final of three articles that she has written about Welsh immigrants to the Granville community.

CAPTURED AT NORTH MOUNTAIN

"National Guards from Licking county-Two Companies Captured," was the headline in the *Newark Advocate* on July 15, 1864.³ The National Guard Unit in question was the 135th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, mustered into service at Camp Chase in Columbus on April 8, 1864, for a period of



Evan Jones

100 days. News of their capture brought both relief and dismay to the soldiers' families, waiting anxiously at home in Ohio after hearing of a skirmish with confederate troops at a mountain depot in West Virginia. Henry Lloyd Jones, his wife Mary, and their children, Margaret, John Gomer, Mary Ann, and Harrison, had been in great suspense, waiting for news of their son and brother, Evan Jones. Jones was a

soldier in Company F of the 135th and now, according to reports, a Confederate prisoner. Certainly the idea that Evan was in the hands of the Confederates was not a pleasant one, but it must have been a relief that at least he had likely survived the encounter. What the families in Granville could not have known, however, was the extent of the peril yet to be faced by the men of companies B and F of the 135th O.V.I. It would be, for many, an unimaginable nightmare.

At the time that the war broke out, the Jones family were residents of the Welsh Hills Community in Granville Township, along with many other newly arrived Welshmen and some families who predated Granville's New England settlers. Henry Lloyd and his family had arrived in 1842, having made the trans-oceanic journey from Southwest Wales to a port in New York and then southwest to Ohio after briefly stopping in Pennsylvania. Evan had been only four years old when the family arrived in America and in 1861 he was, by all accounts, a fit young man of twenty-three, most likely anxious to prove himself a loyal citizen of the United States.

Evan Jones' career as a Union Soldier began uneventfully. According to military records, he first enlisted with the 88th Ohio Infantry for three months, mustered in on the 5th



Civil War veterans pose in front to the Baptist Church in the 1880's. Evan Jones is likely the man sitting on left with the hat in his lap.

of June 1862, and discharged upon expiration of enlistment on September 6 of that same year.⁴ During that period, the 88th infantry never achieved the numbers necessary to be considered a regiment, and therefore was referred to as a "battalion." Perhaps for this reason the men of the 88th were kept at Camp Chase in Columbus and assigned to guard the increasing number of Confederate prisoners of war detained there. According to historian Whitelaw Reid, "the duty here was very arduous. The prisoners were confined in three separate tenements, and it required the whole strength of the regiment to fill the details."⁵ On occasion a company was attached to another regiment for service in the field, but it is very unlikely that Evan saw much action during this time.

After his first term of enlistment expired, Evan returned to the Welsh Hills and the family farm. He was unmarried, so he could devote his energies to assisting his father who, at 54 years of age, still had four adolescent children and a wife to support. Family was very important to the Welsh

Hills settlers, coming second only to God and the government during the war, and many young men were anxious to return home to help support parents, sisters and wives. A neighbor of the Jones Family, William Hankinson, wrote home to his sister Ellen saying, "tell pap that I would like to be there to help him do the farming this summer, I think that I will be there to help him about the last of October."⁶ Additionally, the Jones family had suffered the recent losses of Evan's brother and sister, and Evan's absence during his enlistment would certainly have created worry for those who remained behind.

REENLISTING

For these reasons it makes sense that Evan would choose to enlist in the Ohio National Guard for his second term of service. Records show that he was registered for the draft,⁷ and by 1864 young men from the Welsh Hills were being drafted into service. In a letter written that year Joseph Hankinson, William's brother, writes to their sister, "I was

sorry to hear that Bill was drafted. I wish he had come to this regiment if he could.”⁸ And in a letter written a few months before, William had referred to a friend who had gone “to Canada to get clear of the draft.”⁹ By 1864 the Union was getting desperate for troops. Welsh language newspapers were readily available to the Ohio communities during this period and carried in them reports on the war effort and news from soldiers in the field.¹⁰ Therefore, Evan must have been increasingly aware that he could very well be drafted in the near future if he did not enlist first on his own. This reasoning probably factored into his decision to re-enlist, this time with the Ohio National Guard.

The National Guard during the Civil War was a revival of the old state militia system and in most cases was intended only for protection of the borders and tasks of domestic defense, not for out-of-state service.¹¹ The function of the Ohio National Guard was, according to the statutes of Ohio, “to aid the civil officers, to suppress or prevent riot or insurrections, to repel or prevent invasions,” basically to maintain order within the state and to protect its citizens from outside threat.¹² It is likely then that when Evan enlisted with the National Guard for what would have been a five-year period of service, he expected to spend the entirety of his enlistment within the state, and probably to go not much farther than Columbus. However, that was not to be the case.

AN ORDER FOR 100 DAYS

On April 25, 1864 the following orders appeared in newspapers around the state:

“The regiments, battalions and independent companies of infantry of the National Guard of Ohio are hereby called into active service for the term of one hundred days, unless sooner discharged. [...] Our armies in the field are marshaling for a decisive blow and the citizen soldiery will share the glories of the crowning victories of the campaign by relieving our veteran regiments from post and garrison duty, to allow them to engage in the more arduous duties of the field.”¹³

With those orders from the office of the governor of Ohio and from President Lincoln himself, the National Guardsmen were ordered to report on May 2nd to Camp Chase for active duty.¹⁴ According to regimental historian George Perkins, Evan and more than 35,000 other men “hastily arranged their affairs, and from stores, workshops, and farms, flocked to the defense of their country in the hour of its direst need.”¹⁵

The 135th volunteer infantry was sent by train to Martinsburg, West Virginia, where it was assigned to guard a portion of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from Confederate attack. On arrival in Martinsburg, the men were divided; seven of the companies were assigned to guard the town itself and its supply lines while two companies, com-

pany F (of which Evan was a member) and company B, were sent seven miles outside town to protect the depot at North Mountain.¹⁶ Much of the account of the companies' time at North Mountain comes from Private Thomas Hayes, a native of Granville, who reported in a letter home, “North Mountain is a very pleasant place . . . our camp is surrounded by abatis* work. In the center there is a ditch surrounding it so if we are attacked the rebs will have a good time of it.”¹⁷ The leaders of the detachment at North Mountain were Captain Ulysses Westbrook and Captain John Frances. For six weeks the men of companies B and F diligently patrolled the stretch of railroad that was so vital to Union supply lines and the transportation of soldiers.¹⁸ This duty was repetitious and unexciting, but Evan would have felt fairly sure, especially after six weeks without incident, that their term would soon be up without any major skirmish.

The 135th was a diverse regiment, as most of the National Guard regiments were, and was composed of men from Licking and Hardin counties. For the most part, the National Guard comprised ‘the most substantial men left in the state; men of social position, of wealth and influence in every department of industry and of every profession’ and ‘many of whom had already served an enlistment period but had been discharged for injury or expiration of service.’ The latter was the case for Evan.¹⁹ It is likely that Evan was not the only Welshman in the regiment and that he would have drawn comfort from interacting with other Welsh soldiers and speaking the language. Although there were a great many Welsh serving in the Union Army, there was never an entirely Welsh ethnic regiment as there were German and Irish regiments. Many Welsh Americans lived in very sparsely populated rural areas, and this geographic dispersion would have hindered official attempts to recruit them as ethnically based units. The result was that the Welsh were divided up among the regiments of the Union Army and were, as some Welsh press claimed at the time, “lost amongst other nations.”²⁰

DIVERSITY AMONG THE RANKS

However, because they were part of a diverse regiment, the Welsh immigrants benefited from developing bonds with men from a variety of backgrounds. They were even able to improve their English, which many spoke haltingly, if at all, before they had entered the army.²¹ Additionally, as Protestants, the Welsh did not face the discrimination that was endured by many of the Catholic Irish. Protestantism gave the Welshmen common ground with their comrades, and many formed bonds through religion. Certainly during their six weeks of uneventful patrol duty the men would have formed bonds of shared experience. And late the night of July 2nd they must have complained together about the orders from Captain Westbrook to man the trenches, in case

ed, they were required to give their word that they would not take up arms until a formal exchange was completed, and rebel captives of equal rank were released as well. In many cases, soldiers were ordered to return home and await news of the exchange.³⁸ It seems that this was the case with Evan.

FROM MARTINSBURG TO PITTSBURGH

Evan E. Jones arrived in Pittsburgh on August 3, 1864, exhausted and requesting transportation to Camp Chase. He stated to the officials in Pittsburgh 'he walked from Martinsburg, Va. (*West Virginia had been a state for one year at that point and the misstatement is likely based on that-Ed*). That his regiment was on duty there and that on the 3rd of July 1864 he was captured by the rebels in an attack upon a blockhouse whilst his company was in charge of it. That he was paroled by the rebels and was ordered by the commanding officer of the Regiment to make his way home.'³⁹ Evan was provided transportation from Pittsburgh back to Camp Chase in Columbus.⁴⁰ That he had walked from Martinsburg to Pittsburgh was no small feat, but it may have been his only option, given the damage that had been done to the Union roads and railroads by the Confederates.

Evan was not the only man to escape captivity at Andersonville. One man eluded his captors by pretending to be a citizen of Baltimore, slipping away while moving through that city.⁴¹ Another twelve men showed up in Fulton, Pennsylvania three days after the attack and stated that they had escaped from the rebels while still at the North Mountain Station and then began walking, looking for the 'proper place to which to report themselves.'⁴² These men were the lucky ones, as they evaded the deplorable conditions and probable death that awaited their comrades at Andersonville.

Thomas Hayes, the aforementioned Granville soldier, and over one hundred of his comrades were not so fortunate. They were loaded onto cattle cars and taken to Georgia, where they marched the rest of the way to the gates of Andersonville. Once at the prison they found themselves confined with 36,500 other Union Soldiers on 27 acres of barren swampland. There was no shelter, very little access to water, and only occasional rations. Disease was rampant, and if the men did not suffer from malnourishment or exposure, they fell ill from the lack of sanitation and clean water. It was not until November of 1864 that the prisoners from the 135th were offered parole and delivered to the Union fleet in Georgia. Thomas Hayes was so weak from his ordeal that he reportedly could not even change into a fresh uniform without assistance. But finally, after an extended stay at a hospital in Annapolis, Hayes regained enough strength to return to Granville in December, having sur-

vived his imprisonment in Andersonville against the odds.⁴³

However, even the men who avoided captivity certainly did not escape completely unscathed. For Evan the war had ended, but he would continue to suffer the effects of his experiences. He returned home safely to the Welsh Hills and must have received a joyous welcome from his family, who had surely been sick with worry over his fate. Nonetheless, the facts of Evan's life after the war lead me to suspect that he was scarred both physically and emotionally. Evan never married and never had any children. At the end of his life he lived alone in Newark, right off Main Street.⁴⁴ The injury he received at North Mountain reportedly caused him pain for the rest of his life. Evan died in 1884 at the age of only 46.⁴⁵

Unfortunately, it was not unusual for soldiers to make it home, only to pass away not long afterward from disease, injury, or other effects of their enlistment. In Granville within three years of the end of the war, eight veterans had been buried, four having died of tuberculosis contracted while in the army.⁴⁶ It was also very difficult for soldiers who were wounded during the war to secure government pensions for their disabilities. The pension application process could take years, even a decade. Evan first filed for a pension in 1880, and had still not received approval when he died four years later.⁴⁷ Still, to think that the survivors of the war would have wallowed in their misfortunes or spoken a bad word about the government would be entirely inaccurate. Years later it was said of the men of the 135th volunteer infantry, "The survivors to-day are the sternest adherents to the cause for which their comrades died that can be found in our midst, and no political demagogy can swerve them from voting in the future as they shot in the past."⁴⁸ These were men who were entirely devoted to the Union. In the case of Evan and immigrant soldiers like him, they were devoted to preserving the freedom they and their families had traveled so far to obtain. Indeed, they were willing to risk their lives to protect a government that safeguarded a way of life that they wanted to ensure for future generations.

LOYALTY AND CAMARADERIE

The dedication of immigrants such as Evan Jones not only allowed them to prove their loyalty to their adopted country, but it also made it possible for them to develop a sense of camaraderie with other men from different backgrounds and circumstances. A photograph of the Civil War veterans of Granville, taken at a reunion during the 1880s,⁴⁹ shows a man who is very likely my great-great-uncle, Evan E. Jones. Although only a last name was provided as identification, Evan was the only Jones from the 135th who was still alive at the time the photograph was taken. Moreover, the man in the photograph fits the description given on

Evan Jones' muster papers at the time of his enlistment: hair, black; eyes, black; complexion, sandy. The mustached man stares straight ahead with dark, heavily lidded eyes, his thick dark hair probably much the same as when he was a young soldier over a decade earlier. His arm rests familiarly on the knee of Thomas Hayes, who smiles next to him. This gesture speaks a thousand words. And so, upon the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, we remember the experiences of men such as Evan, their sacrifices, and their devotion to the cause. It was a devotion that spanned differences of circumstance, background, and ethnicity to unite men in support of a common purpose - preserving the Union and the freedom it guaranteed.

FOOTNOTES

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* A defensive obstacle formed by felled trees with sharpened branches facing the enemy

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THE FOUNDING OF GRANVILLE, OHIO

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GRANVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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1

First of Society's Pocket Histories now available

The Granville Historical Society has inaugurated a new series of Pocket Histories with *The Founding of Granville*, pictured above. Under the editorship of Dr. Bill Kirkpatrick, who wrote the first volume, the low priced series, approximately forty pages in length, is oriented toward visitors and as gifts for former Granville residents. Projected titles include *Granville's Industrial Past*, due before the end of 2012, *The Role of Transportation in Granville's History*, *Granville's Cemeteries*, *Granville in The Civil War*, and *The Sinnett Letters*, all due in 2012. Copies may be purchased by contacting the Granville Historical Society at www.granvillehistory.org.

Museum addition in stretch run

The Robinson Research Center for the Granville Historical Society is moving toward completion, at least on the exterior as of our mid-December press time. The building should be in full operation in time for its April dedication. The Capital Campaign continues as the Committee seeks additional funds for furnishings and an endowment to underwrite the operation of the facility.



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