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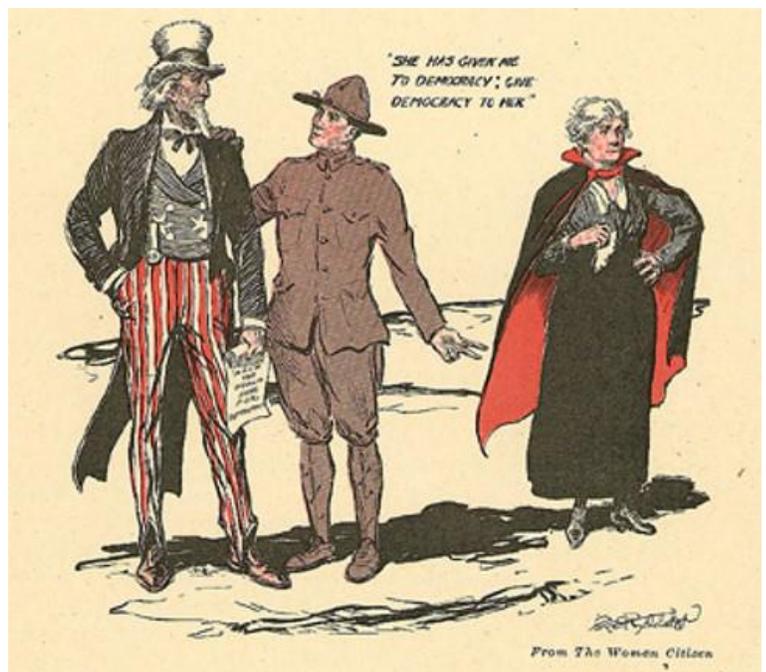
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Suffragists were skilled at drawing on women's contributions to the war effort in their arguments for the vote.

World War I opened doors for women's advancement

Megan Threlkeld's lecture at a Granville Historical Society program held on March 27, 2018. This publication of her written summary of that presentation coincides with the 100th anniversary this year of the end of World War I. Please turn to page 2.



This appeal for the vote appeared in the pages of the *Woman Citizen*, the journal of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Women, World War I and the American Century

By MEGAN THRELKELD

Centennial commemorations of World War I have abounded in recent years, bringing much-needed attention to a conflict that, despite its moniker as the “great war,” tends to be overshadowed by later events. This phenomenon is true in my own field of U.S. women’s history as well. I am happy to have this opportunity to share some of the important stories of U.S. women’s political activism during World War I, and to examine the legacies of that activism over the course of the twentieth century.

For many reasons, this is a difficult war to celebrate. World War I witnessed the inauguration of mechanized warfare and mass civilian casualties, and of course the failure of the Allied powers to deal adequately with its aftermath led directly to World War II only two decades later.

American women experienced these impacts of the war no less than men, but World War I also played an important role in the long evolution of women’s political activism that deserves to be more widely known and celebrated. The war served as an awakening for many women who, up to that point, had not taken much interest in international relations. Whether they opposed or supported the war effort, political activism at the time spurred many women to greater interest and involvement with U.S. foreign affairs, which continued for decades.

Initial Responses to the War

When the war began in 1914, many Americans were shocked and horrified, but they did not expect the war to have much impact on them personally. President Woodrow Wilson pledged to “keep us out



The first lines of this song, so popular in 1915, were: “I didn’t raise my boy to be a soldier; I brought him up to be my pride and joy.”

of war,” and the majority of American women supported that pledge. In 1915, a popular song, titled “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier,” sold 650,000 copies—a dramatic number for the time. As much an isolationist sentiment as a pacifist one, the title nonetheless captured many U.S. women’s response to the war: they wanted no part of it.

Some, however, took a more active stance against the war. In January 1915, a small group of politically active women, including suffrage leaders Jane Addams and Carrie Chapman Catt, founded the Women’s Peace Party, whose platform called for an immediate cessation of hostilities in Europe, the



U.S. delegates sailing to the International Congress of Women at The Hague in 1915. Jane Addams is second from the left.

limitation of armaments, and a permanent end of militarism around the world.

Addams and other party leaders quickly organized the International Congress of Women at The Hague, held in May 1915 to protest the war and promote measures that would end war permanently. The conference was attended by over 1,200 women from twelve different countries, including not only the United States, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Canada, and Belgium, but also Austria, Hungary, and Germany. (180 delegates from Britain were prevented from coming both by their Foreign Office and by the closing of the North Sea.)

The delegates met for four days, sharing their experiences of the current war and their views on the best methods to end war permanently. In their closing resolutions, they agreed on two fundamental points: first, they called for all international disputes to be settled by pacific means, and second, they demanded the franchise be extended to women around the world. To coordinate work on these two goals, they founded the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which still exists

today.

After the conference, thirty women, led by Addams and Emily Greene Balch, traveled across Europe, meeting with government representatives and even a few heads of state to demand an immediate end to the war. Their mission was unsuccessful, obviously, but the fact that they were received and heard in official circles testified to the publicity the conference had generated, and served as a sign of women's growing determination to be heard in the halls of formal diplomatic power.

The United States Enters the War

Peace activism got harder and harder for U.S. women over the course of 1916. As promised, President Woodrow Wilson maintained official neutrality, but programs for military preparedness escalated dramatically. In the early months of 1917, the interception of the Zimmermann telegram, which seemed to reveal a secret plot to draw Mexico into the war on the side of the Central Powers, and Germany's announcement of unrestricted submarine warfare left Wilson with few options. The

United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

U.S. women now had to decide what path to take: continue to protest the war, or join the significant majority of Americans who supported it? For most, the choice was obvious, though not easy. Carrie Chapman Catt had been a founding member of the Women's Peace Party, but as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), she threw the weight of its 100,000-plus members and extensive political machine behind Wilson and the war effort.

The majority of American women supported the war effort in whatever ways they could. They joined volunteer organizations like the Red Cross and the YWCA. They became members of the "Women's Land Army," taking over farm work and agricultural labor from men who had gone off to war, so that the nation could continue to produce food. They took jobs in war industries, including munitions and steel manufacturing. And of course they joined military auxiliaries, serving as nurses, switchboard operators, and ambulance drivers.

NAWSA didn't lose sight of the suffrage battle, however. Members publicized women's war work as the best evidence yet of their fitness for the vote. "We are ready to work beside you, fight beside you, and die beside you," proclaimed one suffrage poster in New York state. "Let us Vote beside you." Largely due to the influence of such appeals, suffragists won a major victory in November 1917, when New York voted to extend the franchise to women.

Not all suffragists supported the war effort, however. Although they were not pacifists, members of the National Woman's Party (NWP), a radical branch of the suffrage movement led by Alice Paul, decided not to subordinate their suffrage demands to the demands of the war effort. NWP members had begun picketing the White House in January 1917, demanding action from President Wilson on behalf of a constitutional amendment granting women the vote. When the United States entered the war in April, some members wanted to stop the protest. But Paul doubled down; she kept the protests going, and sent women to the White House with signs addressed to "Kaiser Wilson." Public outrage at the protest eventually grew so strong that Paul and several other NWP members were arrested and thrown in jail.



A member of the National Woman's Party picketing outside the White House.

After the Allied victory in 1918, Catt and other suffrage leaders were more determined than ever to leverage their support for the war into ballots for women. Suffrage posters and publications sent pointed reminders to politicians and the American public of all that women had contributed to and sacrificed for the war, including their labor and their loved ones. "She has given democracy to me," explained a soldier's ghost to Uncle Sam in one popular image, gesturing toward his grieving mother. "Give democracy to her."

With Wilson's support, the Nineteenth Amendment was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in May 1919 and by the Senate in June; it was finally ratified by the required thirty-six states on August 18, 1920.

The Interwar Period

World War I in many ways marked the beginning of U.S. women's involvement with U.S. foreign relations – an involvement that would only expand

and deepen over the rest of the twentieth century.

For suffragists, the question after 1920 was, now that they had the vote, what should they do with it? The National American Woman Suffrage Association evolved into the League of Women Voters (LWV), which in its early years promoted not just voter education but also equal status for women under the law and the prevention of war through international cooperation. It was never an explicitly pacifist organization, but league members did believe women had the power to effect change on an international scale.

To that end, the league organized the Pan American Conference of Women in 1922. Their idea was to bring together women from throughout the Americas to meet each other and discuss their mutual concerns. The conference organizers believed that increased friendliness among women would translate to better relations among their governments. "The mothering heart and conscience of women have always been at the service of those close at hand," the league declared. "For the first time in history these qualities are being consciously directed to meet world-wide needs."

In 1922, this concern for improved international relations was particularly pressing with regard to Mexico. The outbreak of the Mexican Revolution in 1910 posed serious threats to U.S. investments in Mexico, and the two countries' failure to resolve their differences led to a complete diplomatic break in 1920. Two years later, officials in both countries saw the Pan American Conference as an opportunity. Charles Evans Hughes, U.S. Secretary of State, told league members he was "tremendously pleased with this opportunity for establishing lines with Mexico which they had not been able to do as yet in a more direct manner."

The strategy worked. The conference proved an excellent opportunity not only for U.S. and Mexican women to build relationships, but also for the Mexican delegation to the conference to secure some much-needed goodwill. The eight delegates to the conference traveled across the country by train, stopping in various cities along the way to meet with local LWV chapters. Their journey culminated in Philadelphia, where they presented a handmade Mexican flag to a prominent group of local clubwomen. All of these events were covered by the



LEFT: Virginia Gildersleeve, president of Barnard College from 1911 to 1947, was the sole woman on the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Conference on International Organization in June 1945. RIGHT: Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (1900-1904; 1915-1920)

media, who continually emphasized the friendship among the U.S. and Mexican women.

Just over a year after the conference, the United States and Mexico restored their diplomatic relationship. The League of Women Voters did not take credit for this development, but there is no doubt that the goodwill they promoted in 1922 created a more favorable public opinion toward Mexico in the United States.

World War II

Throughout World War II, myriad individuals, organizations, and government branches were thinking hard about the best way to foster international cooperation and secure lasting peace once the war was over. As early as 1942, the State Department sponsored a consulting group on post-war planning, made up of its own personnel as well as academics, journalists, philanthropists, and others who had a longstanding interest in international cooperation.

In 1943, official representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union signed the Moscow Declaration, committing the Allies to participating in a postwar intergovernmental organization. Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin reiterated that promise in December of that year in Tehran. By the summer of



Members of Women Strike for Peace protesting outside the UN Headquarters in October 1962.

1944, those plans were in full swing. The structure of what would become the United Nations was hammered out at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference between August and October.

Women wanted in. Many women who had been active in the interwar peace and internationalist movements believed that their work and their knowledge had earned them a place at the peace tables. In October 1942, Mary Woolley, the longtime president of Mount Holyoke College, convened a group of forty interested women to form the Committee on the Participation of Women in Post-War Planning. Over the next two years, they worked tirelessly to get women representatives on to various planning commissions and at all the important conferences, including Dumbarton Oaks.

In June 1944, their cause received a significant boost from Eleanor Roosevelt, who hosted a day-long conference at the White House entitled “How Women May Share in Post-War Policy Making.” The attendees’ primary achievement was to draw up the “Roster of Qualified Women,” a list of 260 professional women in various fields, “which government departments and agencies may consult

in the selection of qualified persons to serve on Government Commissions concerned with the reestablishment of a peaceful world.” After the conference, they circulated the list to hundreds of officials and organizations.

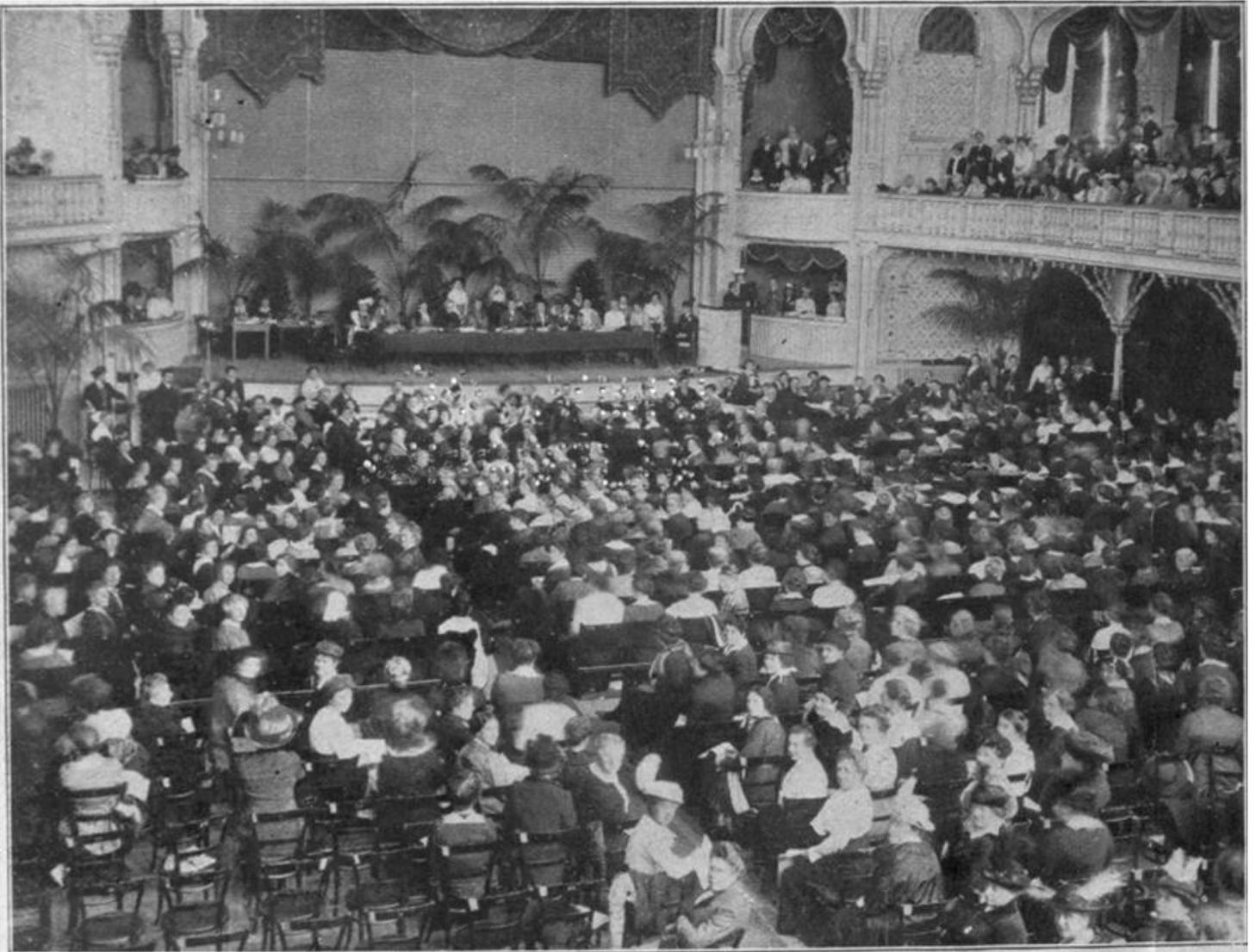
The Committee’s strategy worked so well that they were able to pressure the Roosevelt Administration to include a woman on the official U.S. delegation to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco in June 1945, the meeting at which the UN Charter was formally adopted. Virginia Gildersleeve, the longtime president of Barnard College, was one of eight representatives of the United States at the conference.

Gildersleeve played a central role in ensuring that the UN would be not just a political organization but a humanitarian one as well. “There is another side to the Charter less widely understood,” she argued, “and that is its concern for human welfare, for the well-being of men, women, and children everywhere.” In fact, she pointed out, those “humanitarian ideals” had been called “the soul of the Charter.” Thanks in part to Gildersleeve’s input, the United States supported the establishment of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and many women from the Committee on the Participation of Women in Post-War Planning went on to serve in important roles on the UN Economic and Social Council.

The Cold War

With the advent of the nuclear age, many U.S. women felt more strongly than ever the need to exercise influence over U.S. foreign relations. One of the most significant women’s organizations born out of the Cold War was Women Strike for Peace (WSP). Founded in 1961 by Bella Abzug and Dagmar Wilson, it celebrated its launch with a nationwide march on November 1. In sixty cities around the country, more than 50,000 women paraded under the slogan, “End the arms race, not the human race.”

WSP’s main focal points during the 1960s were calling for a ban on nuclear testing and protesting the United States’ growing involvement in Vietnam. [Figure 10] On January 15, 1962, members staged the largest peace protest outside the White House since the 1940s. They carried signs that read “Pure Milk—Not Poison” and “No Test, East or West.”



Attendees at the International Congress of Women.

One of the most interesting things about WSP was how heavily it drew on the rhetoric of motherhood. While this was common among women's organizations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it was much less so by the 1960s. In December 1962, members brought their babies into a session of the House Un-American Activities Committee on "Communist Infiltration into the Peace Movement." Their goal—successfully achieved, by all accounts—was to ridicule the committee's insinuation that a group of mothers concerned about the future welfare of their children was actually part of a larger communist conspiracy to weaken the United States.

Women Strike for Peace also enjoyed broad support from other movements and organizations. On November 1, 1963, Coretta Scott King joined the group's march at the United Nations headquarters in

New York City to celebrate passage of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. And in February 1967, women from dozens of other organizations joined WSP members for their "Mothers' March on Capitol Hill to Stop the Vietnam War." Throughout the 1990s, the group continued to protest nuclear proliferation.

These are just a few of the ways in which women have sought to play an active role in U.S. international relations since World War I. For all its negative legacies, it is important to remember that the war served as a political awakening for many women, encouraging them to take an active interest in their nation's global activities. The women mentioned here, along with countless others, have worked tirelessly for the past hundred years to steer the United States toward a more peaceful future.

Megan Threlkeld is an associate professor in the History department at Denison University.

Postcard pix help tell Granville story

Steve Katz and Constance Barsky presented a late-nineteenth/early 20th century travelogue of Granville via their collection of postcards with Granville images in a program Oct. 24 in front of an audience of 65 in the Amelia Room at Kendall at Granville

The presentation was part of the Granville Historical Society's 2018 program series.

Katz said the collecting started in 1980 when he found a postcard with a Granville photo in a local antiques shop. "It never occurred to me that Granville

was the subject of postcards," he said.

After mailing the card, he said, "The response was, 'I'll bet there's a couple dozen of those.' Well, it turns out there's a few more than a couple of dozen." The collection contains over 400 postcards, he said.

Katz and Barsky said the collection is divided into "distance" photos, street and road scenes, churches and the Denison University campus.

"Four hundred unique postcards doesn't mean 400 unique scenes," Katz said, but rather about 300. "Many of them are duplicates that have some kind of tiny difference between them."

As for dating the cards, "Many of them have a postmark if they've been mailed somewhere so we can date them that way," he said. "The postcard itself may be older by a year or two or ten. Many of them are scenes taken in the 1800s." Many were not published until the early 20th century, particularly around the 1905 Granville Centennial year.

The couple read several of the messages contained on mailed postcards, many from students in town during the early 20th century.

"Dear Momma, Just a card to let you know I got here alright," said "Lois", who arrived by train during the 1910s. Noting that the other students were also back for school, she wrote, "Feel rather homesick now, but will be alright tomorrow."

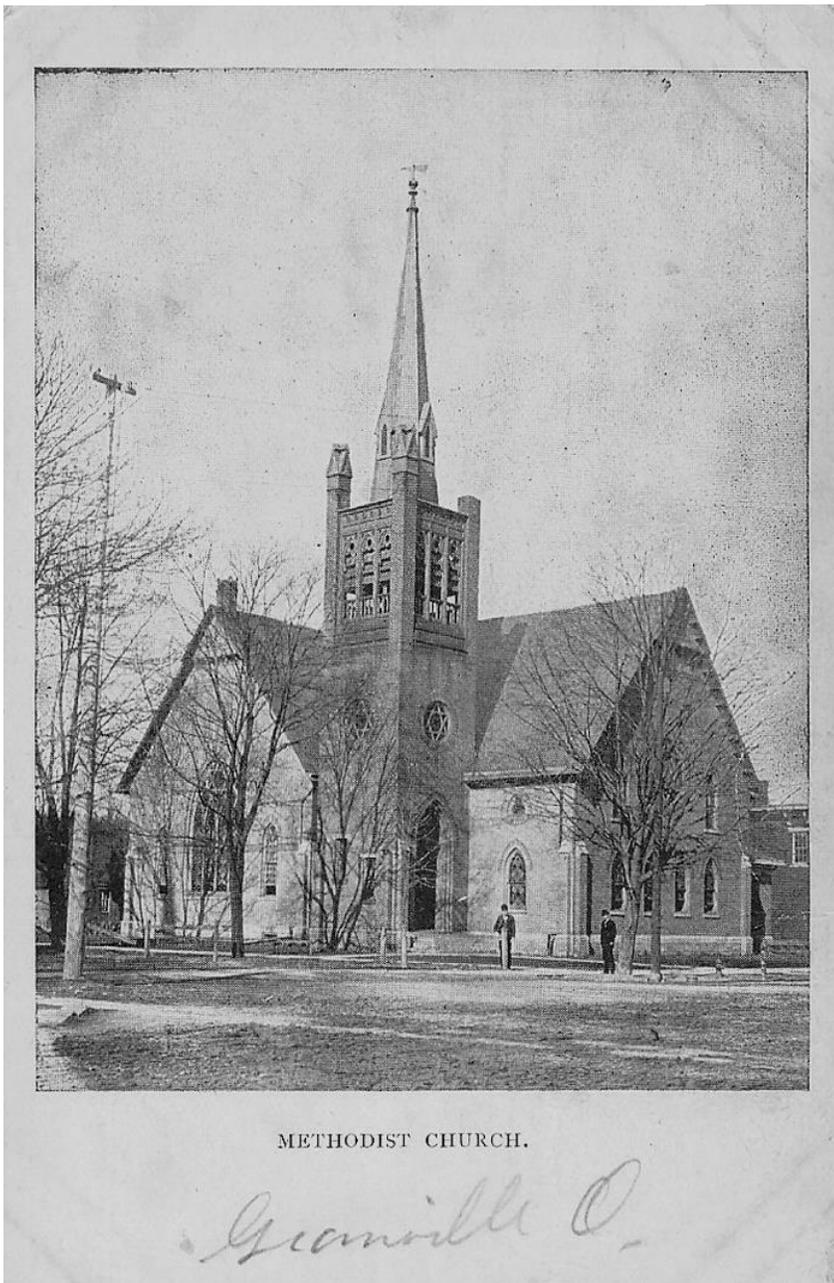
One student sent a card with a bridge photo, writing, "Many a time have I stood on this bridge at midnight and witnessed a hazing below," describing fraternity pledges in the cold, cold water of Raccoon Creek.

"Momma I forgot my comb and toothbrush," wrote a student on another card in 1919. "Please send as soon as possible."

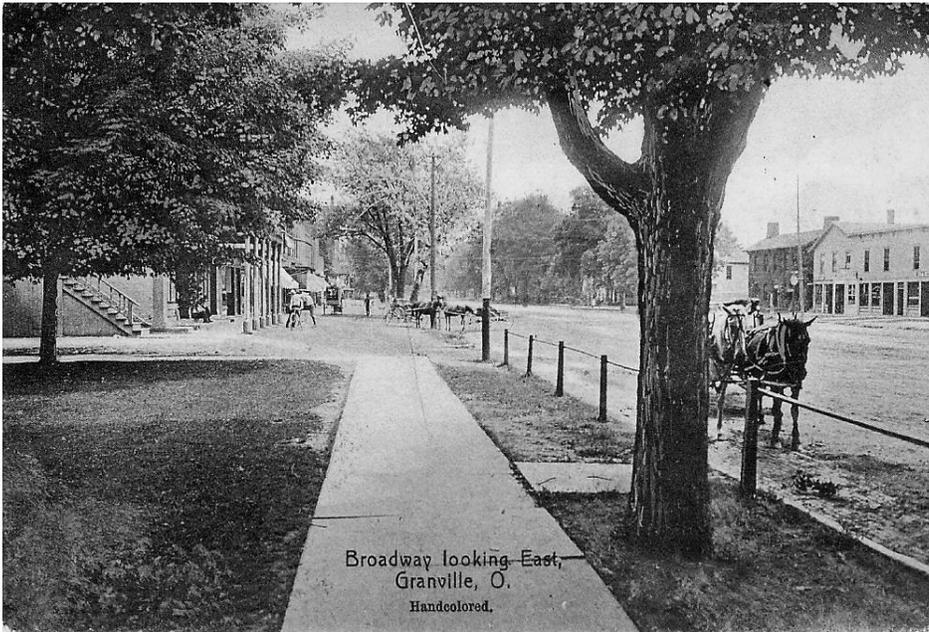
Katz concluded the program with a short message on the back of a card near the turn of the century with several Granville scenes: "Wishing you good luck from Granville Ohio."

Katz said the collection would be donated to the Society in near future.

--Charles A. Peterson



This circa 1900 postcard shows Centenary United Methodist Church with a steeple, part of the new church built during the 1880s. The steeple was taken down 1924.



Broadway looking East,
Granville, O.
Handcolored.

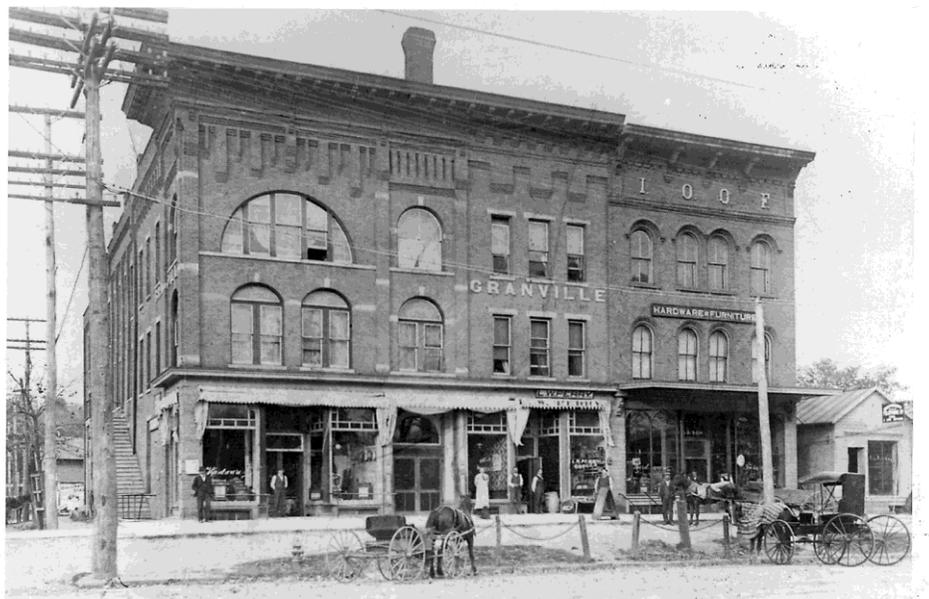
A late 19th century view of downtown Granville, with an “old west” atmosphere, was colorized for a postcard of the day.



Lovers Lane, Granville, O

Pub. by S.P. Tesize

We know it as Weaver Drive, but it was once named Lovers Lane. This view is looking east from what is now Cherry Street/Columbus Road. At right is the foot of Flower Pot Hill, which was cut back during the 1960s when the four-lane Ohio 16 was built. Lovers Lane was changed to Weaver Drive by a doctor who established an office there and objected to the road’s original name, Steve Katz said.



Two of downtown Granville’s tallest buildings once stood at the northeast corner of East Broadway and North Prospect Street, where CVS Pharmacy is now located. The structure on the left, originally Hotel Granville, was known in its final days as Gregory Hardware and was razed along with the IOOF building during the 1960s after they became severely dilapidated.



ABOVE: “The Lone Tree” was a sourgum tree that once stood on a hill off Ohio 661 north of Granville. It died following numerous lightning strikes. It was 100 feet to the lowest branch.

ABOVE, RIGHT: Hardly resembling the Granville Firecracker Five footrace we know today, this race was held on East Broadway in 1909, Steve Katz said, and became a postcard subject.



CENTER, RIGHT: This view of the interior of the Buxton Inn shows a parlor in what now is the first-floor front-room dining space. “Very few interiors were ever featured in postcards,” Katz said.

LOWER RIGHT: Columbus Road is pictured heading north into Granville across an old steel bridge, replaced in the late 1920s with the viaduct that stands today. To find the spot where the bridge stood, follow Palmer Lane into the village water plant property following the driveway all the way to Raccoon Creek.





Keith and Lyn Boone display the framed, matted photo of a classic 19th century Granville scene – their reward for being honored with the Harold “Buck” Sargent Volunteer award.

Boone couple awarded volunteer honor

Lyn and Keith Boone have for 27 summers spent their free time digging and scrubbing in the Old Colony Burying Ground. For their continuing dedication to that cause as well as involvement with the Granville Historical Society, the couple was presented the Society’s Harold “Buck” Sargent Volunteer Award.

The presentation was made at the Society’s annual meeting and banquet on Nov. 7, where they were presented with a framed, matted photo of a 19th century Granville setting – South Main Street and environs as seen from the Denison University Hill.

Next to the initiator of the Old Colony restoration project, Flo Hoffman, the Boones have spent more time there than any other volunteers, said incoming Society president Cynthia Cort, who nominated the couple for the honor. In the absence of Flo and her husband, Bill, they have taken over the management of the restoration project, Cort said, including all of the record-keeping prepared for each stone, repairing and setting up stones that need it and recruiting other volunteers for work days.

The Boones have seen the yard through the transition from having professionals Jim and Minnie Fannin come every summer to relying on local skills for maintaining the yard. Lyn also took the texts gleaned by C.W. Bryant from the cemetery’s stones and added an informational kiosk with locations of the stones in the yard, as well as status of the stone,

whether “missing,” “present,” or “broken.” Lyn also serves as the at-large member of the Granville Union Cemetery Board.

In addition to the work of maintaining the graveyard, the Boones are both volunteers for the Society itself, Lyn as a host in the museum, a grant writer, member of the Publications Committee and working in the Archives.

Keith has played many roles, taking on maintenance, gardening, data entry, and exhibitions — without being asked, Cort said. He also served a term on the Society’s Board of Managers.

“They have been an integral part of the progress that the Society has made over the last six years since the Robinson Research Center was built,” Cort said. “Each has been flexible, agreeable and reliable in attacking needed projects.” Keith in fact has become the Society’s reliable handyman, either doing himself or seeing to many improvements in the museum and Robinson Research Center.

The award’s namesake, Harold “Buck” Sargent” was a mainstay of the Society’s Board of Managers particularly during the 1980s, in charge of buildings and grounds, as well as being a pillar of the community in a number of ways. The award is given to those who make significant contributions in the realm of history both to the Society and the community in general in the same spirit Sargent exhibited.

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GET CONNECTED, JOIN THE SOCIETY

The Granville Historical Society is an all-volunteer, non-governmental not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization with membership open to all. Joining the Society is a delightful way to meet people who share a love of and interest in Granville's rich, well-documented history. Monthly programs, quarterly publications, and a museum that is open five days a week during the season are some of the ways that enable Society volunteers to share facets of what makes Granville so fascinating with members and guests. Volunteers are welcome in the Archives and Museum Collections areas, as well as museum hosts.

Please visit Granvillehistory.org for further information about all that we do and how you can get involved.

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