



THE HISTORICAL TIMES

Quarterly of the Granville, Ohio, Historical Society

Volume XXXIV, Issue 2

2020

\$2.00

Pop quiz

Trivia questions test your knowledge of Granville history

By TOM MARTIN

The following questions and answers involving Granville's history, writ large and small, are presented to test the reader's knowledge of local history. The order is intentionally not chronological in order to insert the good bits among the more "dry" entries.

The only theme that runs throughout is John Sutphin Jones as an introduction to a book that Laura Evans has written for the Granville Historical Society. Watch for *Granville's Tycoon: John Sutphin Jones and the Gilded Age*, now available at the Granville Historical Museum.

Two of Granville's mid-twentieth century restaurants had signature desserts. What were the desserts and who sold them?

The Aladdin sold the Yum Yum and The Evergreens sold Red Velvet cake.

Were the settlers from Granville, Massachusetts, and Granby, Connecticut, the first European-Americans to move to Granville?

No, four Welsh families preceded them in 1801.

True or false: Denison's Cleveland Hall (now Bryant Arts Center) was named after the Cleveland family.

False. It was named after donors from Cleveland to serve as a gym. Built in 1904, it had a pool and an indoor track suspended above the basketball court. It was later famous as the site where final exams were administered and as a result was generally shunned by most students until it was redesigned as the Bryant Arts Center in 2009.

In the era of telephone operators, how many



Evergreens Restaurant was a popular place on Columbus Road just west of Granville.

did Granville have?

One. After the telephone company building on East Broadway was built, she had an apartment upstairs. She served for about sixty years. Her name was Blanche Horton.

Was anyone injured in the Granville Riot of 1836?

No one was injured in the scuffle between an Abolitionist speaker from Oberlin and his entourage, and "rabble" that did not welcome him. The good guys were protecting young women of one of the village academies and the bad guys threw eggs at them. The Ohio press, laboring through a slow news day, created the "Granville Riot".

Name Granville's three hills. What street connects two of them?

Elm Street connects Mount Parnassus and Sugarloaf. Denison Hill to the north on one map was once known as the Hill of Science.

When were Granville's streets first paved?

1916

What name do longtime Granvilleans give your house? The name of the family from whom you bought it, or the names of those who built it?

The answer is a mix of the two, depending on how long the residency was. In recent times, there has been a modest trend toward naming the house after the present occupants if they have lived there for more than half of the house's history (the "Martin amendment").

Where in Granville did the last glacier run out of gas in the last ice age?

On the northwest slope of Sugarloaf.

How is "Du," as in Bryn Du, pronounced correctly? According to whom?

"Dee," according to the Welsh both in the U.S. and in Wales.

What is the name of the woman from Granville who sang in the Metropolitan Opera?

Barbara Daniels, who sang in the 1970s and 1980s and now teaches voice in Innsbruck, Austria. Her performances are listed in IMDb.



Opera singer.

What was the building that now serves as the Granville Historical-Society Museum built to be in 1816?

The Alexandrian Society Bank. It has also been a barber shop, women's ice cream parlor, a stone carving location, hat shop, among other uses, and for several decades was the station for the Interurban trolley railway.

Who was Granville's 19th and early 20th Century tycoon?



How did Denison's Cleveland Hall get its name?

John Sutphin Jones, who among other things met with some of the Robber Barons to discuss planning a railroad across Florida, built the Granville Inn, bought the land north of Granville Road stretching from the elementary school to the point where Cherry Valley Road goes south from Newark-Granville Road, and in his later years told his wife, "I just bought Naples," Florida.

Did he have a rival in Granville's history?

Perhaps. Lucius Mower built the 1824 brick Mower House just east of the now Avery Downer-Robbins Hunter Museum. He was early Granville's wealthiest man, and when he died in 1834 so many loans that he had made in the community were called in in order to settle his estate that a sort of local depression ensued. His is the half column monument in the Old Colony Burying Ground, a sign in 19th century cemeteries of a life cut short. He died at age 41.

Did early Granville actually have an iron foundry?

Yes, near the confluence of Clear Run and Raccoon Creek just north of today's bike path.

Where did Granville get its name?

From Granville, Massachusetts. The name of Granby, Connecticut, which contributed almost an equal number of settlers, got left in the dust.

From whom did the Granville settlers buy the land?

The financially struggling new United States could only pay Revolutionary War soldiers in warrants which could be traded in for land, and most couldn't imagine living beyond the Allegheny Mountains, so they sold their warrants to agents who in turn bundled individual properties and sold them to land companies such as the Licking Land Company. Granville Township was surveyed in 1797



Interurban transportation was a popular way of getting around Licking County and Central Ohio during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

as part of the U.S. Military District. Land was acquired, according to an act of Congress in 1796, in units of 4,000 acres. This stipulation may explain why Granville Township was laid out in a five-mile square of 16,000 acres instead of a six-mile square, which is far more common in Ohio.

At its height, how many times an hour did the Inter-Urban trolley (approximately 1890-1920) run between Granville and Newark?

Two times per hour. Students from dry Denison in dry Granville knew well what time the last coach in the evening passed their favorite watering hole on its way back to Granville and saloon owners knew well where to locate their establishments-along the tracks.

What member of the sixties rock group The Turtles once lived in Granville?

Alan Nichol, the son of a Denison English professor, lived on Sheppard Place.

What Granville legend does the Depression era Works Progress Administration mural on the back wall of the post office depict?

Theophilus Rees of the Welsh community northeast of Granville hearing the singing of hymns during the Yankee settlers' first worship service. At

first, he thought the sound came from the lost cow he was pursuing, and then as he drew closer, he thought it was the voices of angels. Or so Granville's legend goes. Instead he found a company of cold, wet, hungry Puritans fresh from their twelve-week journey from Granville, Massachusetts.

Granville's Willard Warner was a United States senator. Was he one of the two senators from Ohio?

No, he was a Reconstruction-era "Carpetbagger" senator "from" Alabama.

In what year of the 20th century did Granville become legally wet?

Following a vote to permit the sales of beer, wine, and liquor in 1974, Granville became officially wet for the first time since 1889 when the village had gone legally dry, much to the sorrow of generations of Denison students and to the continuing joy of Newark tavern owners

When was the Old Colony Burying Ground established, and when was the first burial?

Old Colony was established in 1805 at the time Granville was founded, as part of the original plat of the Village. The first burial was in 1806, the infant child of settlers Ethan and Lucy Bancroft.

When did the Project to Preserve the Old Colony Burying Ground begin?

After several years of planning, Granville citizens launched the preservation project in 1992, and volunteer work continues every summer in restoring and maintaining the historic headstones.

Name the four buildings built during Granville's "Million Dollar Year," 1924.

The Granville Inn and Granville Public Library, designed by noted Columbus architect Frank Packard, the now demolished high school on Granger Street, and Swasey Chapel.

At the turn of the 20th Century, Denison's Professor William Tight put his wife on the train in Granville and rode off to Columbus on his big wheeler bicycle, where they would meet. Who met whom?

Dr. Tight got to the Columbus station first, and waited to meet his wife, who had to change trains twice along the way.

Who was the Farley of Farley's Sheep Barn, the nickname for the Post Office when it opened in 1937 during the Depression?

Postmaster General James Farley of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. At that time, the Postmaster General was a member of the Cabinet, and frequently had been the President's campaign manager. Farley was a Democrat who boldly came to Republican Granville to dedicate the building. Other Depression era post offices can be found in Gambier, New Concord, and other towns, each with similar flooring, curved ceilings, brass mailbox doors, stained wainscoting, and murals by Works Progress Administration artists, who would otherwise have been starving. The murals typically depict a local scene or legend and are of varying quality.

How many Denison presidents lived in Monomoy House?

Five: Robert and Nancy Good, Andrew DeRocco, Michele and Gail Myers, Dale and Tina Knobel, and Adam and Anne Weinberg.

Where was Granville's Village Square, designed after the New England common concept, located?

Around the intersection of Main Street and Broadway. It soon turned into a simple intersection as the four churches grew into its space, and Broadway became part of an important stagecoach thoroughfare that ran from Zanesville to



The Old Colony Burying Ground, located on South Main Street.

Worthington

What meat did the settlers from Massachusetts primarily eat to survive in their first winter?

Wild turkeys, which were around in great abundance, as were snakes. An annual tradition began in which the entire village would turn out to drive snakes up Sugarloaf and kill them, even though they were less tasty and scarier than Wild Turkeys.

At its founding in 1805 was Granville covered by trees or was it basically prairie?

The entire region was covered by virgin forest. One of the first jobs for the first settlers was to clear land for planting, building materials, and fuel.

What four critical events dashed the aspirations of early Granville leaders (mainly of attracting industry) and left Granville a college town?

The National Road, U.S. 40, was located eight miles to the south and was completed to the east by about 1834, the Ohio-Erie Canal -- built between 1825 and 1832 -- was also not routed through Granville, and a railroad did not arrive in Granville until 1861. In 1808, Granville had lost to Newark in the competition for the location of the seat of the newly formed Licking County.

Watch for more trivia in the next issue of *The Historical Times*.

Tom Martin is an emeritus member of the Granville Historical Society Board of Managers, sits on the Publications Committee, and a past-president of the board.

Volunteer knew how to make Opera House clock tick again

By CHARLES A. PETERSON

For a handful of years during the 1970s, Granville residents got to see and hear something that had been denied them for years: the three faces of the Opera House tower clock keeping accurate time, and the sound of its chimes.

They had then-Granville resident Lehr Dircks to thank for the revival — one that was sadly cut short in April 1982 when the Opera House, located downtown on the southeast corner of Broadway and Main Street, next to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, burned down.

A January 7, 1976 front-page story in *The Granville Sentinel* announced that Dircks, who had been working on the clock since 1972, climbed the ladder to the clock on Christmas Eve 1975 to manually ring the chimes for “the first time in more than 40 years,” the *Sentinel* reported. He was still in the process of getting them to work automatically, a feat he achieved later.

Dircks said he had also done something similar at the end of the calendar year one or two years prior to that when the clock became operable.

“I went up at midnight on the 31st of December and started it striking, just as a fun thing, so that it struck and started the New Year off,” Dircks added in a recent interview for *The Historical Times*.

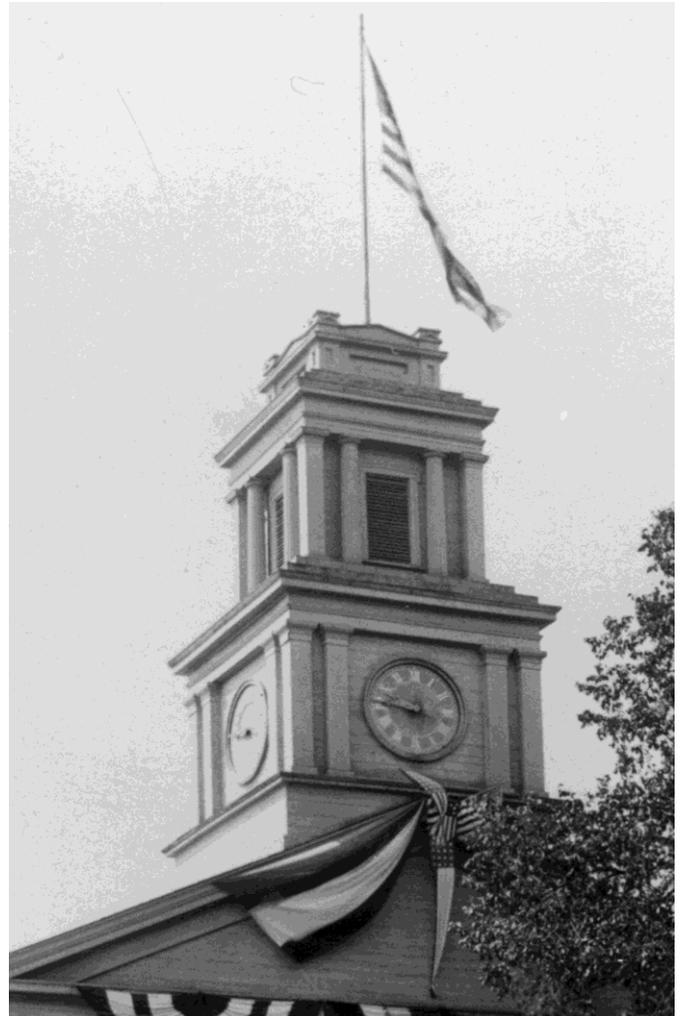
Dircks, his wife Marcia and their four children moved to Granville during the late 1960s when he took a position as a technician at the Newark Air Force Base. Noticing that the clock was not working, he asked Granville Township Trustee Carl Welsh and Township Clerk Glenn Wince about it. But they needed some six months of prodding to allow him to ascend the tower and give a diagnosis, Dircks said.

“I'd say, ‘Well, I'd just like to go and look at it once’,” Dircks said. “They'd say, ‘No, we had somebody in there and they messed it up’.”

They finally relented sometime during 1972.

“I went up and I looked at it,” Dircks said. “Right off the bat I could see there's some parts missing.”

Dircks had training with much smaller



timepieces, earning a certified watchmaker's degree while working for his father, who had a jewelry store in Huron, Ohio, on Lake Erie.

“I went to school for watch and clock-making at the Elgin Watch Factory,” he said. “They had a school next to the factory. As a kid I always worked on clocks and stuff. He sent me there to learn to do it the right way.” Dircks worked for his dad for four years until he went to work for the Army as a civilian employee.

The gargantuan size of the Opera House clock, compared to what he was used to working on, was not an obstacle. The clock itself was probably two-and-a-half feet by a foot-and-a-half, and three to four feet tall, Dircks said. The pendulum was 10 feet long, weighing about 40 pounds, hanging within the

tower.

"There's not much difference between a watch and a something that big," he said. "It's basically the same type of mechanism, only bigger — more massive."

There was much more legwork involved with repairing the tower clock, however.

"The hardest part about that is you've got so many steps and rickety ladders to go up to work on stuff," he said. "So if you've got to fix a part, you gotta take it out, fix it and take it back up in again. And you always try to remember what you have to have with you when you go up. There were many trips back down."

While digging through six inches of bird manure, since there were no screens over the vents into the tower, Dircks determined that the escape wheel and "verge" — two key items — were among the missing components along with two other wheels and shafts.

"And then I went home and did some deep thinking and studying to come up with the gear ratios and the size of the wheels to make things work," he said.

Dircks was dealing with the original apparatus installed when the structure was built in 1849-50 as the new First Baptist Church's building, at the southwest corner of Broadway and Main. When the Baptists decided in 1880 to build the church that stands today, Granville Township purchased the older one and moved it across South Main Street, calling it the Opera House.

"Some of it was blacksmith made — something at the time that was made special for something in that tower," he said of the original clockworks.

Asked by Welsh how much the repair would cost, Dircks estimated \$500 to \$600, not counting bartering. "He said, 'OK.' Then someone volunteered to fund it. It could have been Carl himself. He was that kind of person."

"If it was something simple I just did it," he added. "I didn't worry about turning in a bill."

Dircks decided that having a new gear made would be too expensive. In a catalog, he found that the Boston Gear Co. had exactly what he wanted in the needed pinions and in the actual gear wheel itself. Then came the problem of who would make the shaft and install the pinions. He first approached a machine shop in Newark, where he was told the job was too small to bother with. He then

approached Sam Schnaidt, who operated the Opera House Antiques store in the Opera House building. Schnaidt suggested he could work a deal with the company by loaning it a sandblaster needed by one of the owners for a 1930s vintage car restoration project. The approach worked.

"That's how the shafts got made and the gears pressed on," Dircks said. "Then I was able to start rebuilding the clock."

But then the clock's enormous size began to hit home with the watch repairman. "I had to cull the parts out piece by piece. Some of those things would weigh 70 to 80 pounds."

And in the process, Dircks shoveled the bird droppings out onto the roof for the rain to wash away. "Today you couldn't do that stuff," he said. He then covered the vents with protective screens.

Once the replacement pieces were in place he wound up cables for two different drums — one for the strike and one for the time — which reached down to the bottom of the first floor of the Opera House. The weights were inside the walls. The cables had big square lead-and-iron weights. "I would estimate that each set of cables held a hundred pounds." He also got the strike working and sequenced.

Then, walking outside the tower along the ledge — "Which I wouldn't do today. I was younger then." — he worked on the hands for the three clock faces, replacing one hand that was rotted. Once the hands were sequenced, "I got the movement in, everything put together, and got it running."

"The strike I didn't get going right away," he said.

Thereafter, Dircks took it upon himself to wind the clock once a week for its eight-day run. "I would go in and periodically oil it. If the hands got out of sequence I would sequence them."

A week or so later after he manually rang the chimes, Dircks said that a lady who lived in a house behind the Baptist Church applauded the repair. "She sent me a real cute little note about how nice it was to hear the bell strike the new year — almost like a cute little poem."

"It was a fun project," he said. "I've done it to three different ones in the Dayton area."

Dircks was told the clock hadn't worked "for years." The January 1976 *Sentinel* story estimated that it hadn't kept time for more than 40 years.

Interestingly, it appears the clock could have

been working at least up through the 1950s when Doug Stover, a teenager who was manager of Rosato's restaurant and a projectionist for the movie theater, both housed in the Opera House, decided to investigate one day while in the projection room, which had direct tower access.

"I just went up there out of curiosity," said Stover, now 81 and a resident of near Austin, Texas.

"I didn't know anything about clocks but I did see it was a weight system," he said, recalling that all he did was pull a chain that lifted weight, thus "winding" the clock for the first time, apparently, in years. The clock started running.

"I set the hands on the clock so that they would coincide," he said of the three clock faces. "If you looked on the east side of the clock it was one time and on the west side it was another."

"It ran that way for seven days," Stover, said, concluding, "It didn't run because there wasn't anybody there to wind it up. All it needed was for someone to go up there winding the clock."

The clock's functioning did not go unnoticed at this time, either, particularly since the chimes still worked. Stover's younger brother, Jeff, still an area resident, recalls talking to Frances Welsh across the street at Welsh's grocery shortly after it started keeping time again.

"She was really excited about that clock running again," he said, as did several of Frances's friends. "It was the talk of the town that day."

Only four remnants of the clock system remain: the hands of two of the clocks. Sam Schnaidt has one pair he purchased from a young man several years ago who said he found them in a trash container. The Granville Historical Society has another set. It's unknown whether or not the third set survived.

Dircks was rewarded for his expertise and effort in 1973 with receipt of the Granville Historical Society's Howe Family Memorial award. It was estimated he spent 100 hours on the project.

"Lehr, has, of his own volition and interest brought our Town Hall clock back to life and is presently restoring its familiar voice," the Society's award certificate stated. "He brings to this historic project the tradition and skill of two generations of clock building being capable of repairing, adjusting or building any part required for complete restoration. ... All Granville joins in honoring Lehr Dircks for restoring one of Granville's most beloved

landmarks."

Dircks moved to the Dayton area in 1980 for a job at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He was offered early retirement around 1990.

Now, at the age of 80, he still works on his own clocks, restores tractors, cuts firewood, and has his own sawmill.

Dircks was not present for the 1982 fire, but, he remembered, "I had several people call and say it went down under."

He also worked his magic on the clock at the Robbins Hunter Museum when it was an antiques store run by Robbins Hunter.

"I had to put in a few block pulleys and then cable the weights to where they would come down through a closet to the lower level for it to run the full week," he said. "I also added a micro switch connected to a heavy solenoid on the bell on the roof to make it ring the hour."

Visiting Granville in the fall of 2019 for a Granville fire department reunion, Dircks marveled at 21st century downtown Granville.

"It's just totally changed. You don't have the little hometown grocery that you had (and) the drug stores. It was a good, quaint town. We liked the town."

"Our kids grew up here," he said of Melissa, Lehr Jr., Diedra, and Heather. What was nice about it – we lived in Granger Street, catty-corner from the school. The kids could walk to school. They could walk uptown. It was safe. If Marcia wanted something from the grocery store she could send one of the kids up, and get it."

Dircks recalled a Granville story his wife remembers about Carl Welsh, one of the downtown grocers at the time. "She saw a woman shove stuff in her pocket. She told Carl. Carl said, 'Yeah, I know it. She needs it'. That's just the kind of town it was."



Lehr Dircks

Charles A. Peterson is a member of the Granville Historical Society Board of Managers and chairs its Publications Committee.

GRANVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
115 E. Broadway
P.O. Box 129
Granville, OHIO 43023

Non-Profit
Org.
**U.S. Postage
Paid**
Newark, Oh
Permit No. 66



THE HISTORICAL TIMES

Celebrating its 34th year of
publication by The Granville
Historical Society

Publications Board

Charles A. Peterson, editor and
designer, and Publications Committee
chair; Tom Martin, Lyn Boone, Bill
Kirkpatrick, Stewart Dyke, Marianne
Lisska, Jamie Hale, J. David Rinehart,
Wayne Piper and Rob Drake.

Printing by:

Denison University Department of
Office Services

Board of Managers

President – Cynthia Cort
Vice President – Heidi Drake
Secretary – Amy Welsh
Treasurer – Kim Manley

Class of 2021

Janet Procida
Mollie Prasher
Charles A. Peterson

Class of 2020

Rita Kipp
Nancy Rush
Ron Sherwood

Class of 2019

Elizabeth Wilson
J. David Rinehart
Wayne Piper

Board Member Emeritus

Tom Martin

Office Manager

Jodi Lavelly

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.

The Granville Historical Society
P.O. Box 129, Granville, OH 43023
740-587-3951

GranvilleHistorical@gmail.com
www.granvillehistory.org

Granville History Museum and Robinson
Research Center, 115 West Broadway.