



# THE HISTORICAL TIMES

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## Archeology in the Welsh Hills

### Dig yields fascinating array of artifacts for teen archeologist

By CHARLES A. PETERSON

The Granville Historical Society archives and collections departments have become a gold mine of information for an area teen archeologist.

In August, Ethan White, 15, contacted the Society via email announcing a trove of finds from diggings he conducted on his family's acreage in the Welsh Hills, northeast of Granville, offering to share what he found.

With Society leaders offering to assist in any way they could, Ethan has spent many a Saturday this fall — when he wasn't running a Granville High School cross country race — in the archives researching the origins of some 50 antique bottles and a few other artifacts found in what appears to be a dumping area for farm families residing in the area during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

"The Historical Society has been very helpful in identifying a few artifacts as well as better estimating their age," White said. "I have also found a good amount of maps of the property from the time the dump was in use to when it was abandoned."

Thanks to his Granville Middle School history teachers and family vacations that included visits to national parks and museums, White had already started to develop an interest in history.

That seed sprouted in a big way when, after walking through the family property during spring 2019, he saw an unusual iron rod sticking out of the ground while clipping branches along a trail in the woods.

"Out of curiosity I started digging around the rod and discovered some pottery and glass in summer 2019," Ethan, a GHS freshman, explains. "But many artifacts that I have found were from this spring and summer since I was stuck at home due to the (coronavirus) pandemic and had a lot more time to



**Ethan White at his digging site in the Welsh Hills.**  
dig."

What he found was a dumping pit for unwanted and used items, almost certainly established during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



**Iron artifacts (range of about 1860-1910)**

- 1-Bottle opener.
- 2-Candlestick holder (likely used in a church).
- 3,4-Saddle clips.
- 5- Horseshoe (likely used by draft horse in field).
- 6-Horseshoe (likely used by horse for transportation).
- 7-Gun (likely a toy).
- 8- Unknown tool with rubber component.
- 9-Rake.
- 10-Knife.
- 11-Meat hoist.
- 12-Hitching post.
- 13-Fork.

**Excavated by Ethan White from dump site in the “Welsh Hills” region of Granville, OH.**

Aiding the cause was the metal detector he received for his birthday a year and a half ago. “I did use it to find additional dump pits. I have found at least three so far, all within 20 meters or so of each other.”

To date, he’s found and catalogued some 50 bottles, many of them beverage containers for soda, beer and whiskey in addition to 20 apothecary bottles. There was also the occasional ink and milk bottle.

A number of tools turned up — a hand drill, pitchfork, chisel, and rake in addition to a belt buckle, horseshoes, pocketknife and a toy gun.

“It is cool to find them all. It’s just made me wonder more about local history,” he said.

The Welsh Hills is where the first immigrants in the Granville area arrived in 1802 from Wales, after a seven-year stay in Pennsylvania, according to historian William Utter in his book *Granville: The Story of an Ohio Village*. Ethan believes that the Cramer, Jones and Hankinson families had farms in that area and jointly used the pits.

The Whites’ home is located on a hill. A creek winds around just outside of the property at the bottom of the hill, along Lincliff Drive. The dumping area is also down the hill in a wooded area.

Also having found a nutting stone — used to crack open various nut shells — along the creek, and after

reviewing maps, Ethan concluded there may have been a Wyandot Native American village near there, based on information from a map in the Society’s archives.

In his digging, Ethan also found a collar button. In a meeting with Cynthia Cort, the Society’s collections manager and board president, he got a mini-history lesson on 19<sup>th</sup> century men’s wear.

“Your collar was separate from your shirt,” Cynthia explained, “so you could wash it more often. You didn’t wash your shirt every day, but you did wash your collar every day, so it would look good. It attached at the back – there’s a little buttonhole in your shirt. So this would go through that buttonhole and hold the collar for your shirt.”

“I thought that was a game piece,” Ethan said with surprise.

With a number of interesting shapes and sizes particularly among the bottles, Ethan went online to research some of the company names he found on them. Many were produced in Newark and Columbus.

“Most of the beers were from Columbus,” he said.

And he didn’t stop there. He took photos of many of the unbroken items and catalogued them, too. He then contacted the Ohio History Connection in Columbus, talking to Dr. Brad Lepper, curator of archeology, who gave him advice on the archeological digging process



**Miscellaneous artifacts  
(range of about 1860-1910)**

**1**-Unknown product; jar manufactured by Capstan Glass Co.

**2**-Unknown product; unknown source of jar.

**3**-Telegraph insulator (clay); unknown manufacturer.

**4**-Ink produced by Sanfords Ink; unknown source of bottle.

**5**-Ink produced by Carters Ink; unknown source of bottle.

**6**-Unknown product (likely vinegar-based sauce); unknown source of bottle.

**7,8,9**-Ketchup produced by Heinz (Pittsburgh, PA); bottle manufactured by Heinz.

**10**-Unknown product (likely vinegar-based sauce); unknown source of bottle.

**11**-Prong lantern (brass) produced by Plume & Atwood; unknown source of bottle.

**12**-Buckle (likely zinc-plated).

**13**-Opium pipe bowl (ceramic).

**14**-Marble (clay).

**15**-Collar button (glass).

**16**-Pendant (unknown materials).

**17**-Coronet lantern (brass) manufactured by C. T. Ham (Rochester, NY).

**18**-Comb marked with the year 1851 (rubber) manufactured by J. R. Comb Co's. Goodyear.

**19**-Suspender clip (brass).

**20**-File (stone). **21**-Harmonica reeds (brass).

**Excavated by Ethan White from dump site in the "Welsh Hills" region of Granville, OH.**

and cataloging.

On a recent Saturday in the Historical Society archives, Ethan and Assistant Archivist Janet Procida, whose ancestry is Welsh, identified several items Ethan found.

"He brought them in, unpacked them and proceeded to tell me what he thought they were, but he wasn't sure," Janet said.

Using online sources and the Society's own Past Perfect record-keeping software, which includes photos of its own collection, four artifacts were identified with reasonable certainty after comparison to similar items, some in the Society's inventory, she said.

One rusted metal object 12-13 inches long was found to be a file or rasp, used by farriers when shoeing

horses, Janet said. "The first guess is that it could have been a chisel. But the unusual holes in the shaft of the tool led us to belief that it was a rasp." The fact that Ethan indicated it had been found in an area with several horse shoes helped lead to that conclusion, she said.

Another broken object appears to be a souvenir likely obtained at a county fair. It was aluminum and had "ADV in The Shield" imprinted on it. Doing a Google search, they discovered a newspaper published in Mansfield, Ohio, called *The Shield*. It turned out to be half of a shoehorn that had that message on it.

"Somebody had saved it, and when it broke, they tossed it out," Janet said.

Ethan is already planning an exhibit in the Society's

**Apothecary and related bottles (range of about 1860-1910)**

**1a/1b**-Dioxogen produced by The Oakland Chemical Co.; bottle manufactured by Cunningham's & Co.

**2a/b/c**-Castoria produced and bottle manufactured by the Chas. H. Fletcher Co. **3**-Unknown product; unknown source of bottle.

**4**-Unknown product; bottle manufactured by Owens Illinois Glass Co.

**5**-Unknown product; unknown source of bottle.

**6**-Unknown product; bottle manufactured by Whitehall Tatum & Co.

**7**-Vegetable ointment produced by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound; unknown source of bottle.

**8**-Unknown product (likely perfume); unknown source of bottle. **9**-Unknown product (likely leather polish); unknown source of bottle.

**10,11,12,13,14**-Unknown product; unknown source of bottle. **15**-Milk processed by unknown company; unknown source of bottle.

**16**-Unknown product; bottle with 5, 10, 15, and 20 CC markings manufactured by Wormser Glass Co.

**17**-Unknown product; bottle with 2 1/2 oz marking manufactured by Hazel Atlas



Glass Co.

**18**-Pretzinger's Catarrh Balm (Dayton, OH); unknown source of bottle.

**19**-Poison produced and bottle manufactured by Sharpe & Dohme.

**20**-Whiskey tumbler likely

manufactured by Heisey Glass Works. **21**-Unknown product; unknown source of "Jiv and Jii" bottles.

**Excavated by Ethan White from dump site in the "Welsh Hills" region of Granville, OH.**

museum next year featuring his finds.

"These are some of the items that he would like to include in his display," Janet said, which is planned for the museum's Cherry Room. "He's already been taking pictures of the space and the cabinets in preparation for his display."

"I found a lot and they obviously had some sort of local history to them. I wanted to share them," he said of the artifacts.

Cynthia also showed him the bottle collection at The

Works, in Newark, for the sake of comparison.

"We're very excited for him to show interest in the community, because not many young people do that," she said. "He has used the pandemic time, having to stay home, for great advantage. We are happy to help him extend his research."

Following Dr. Lepper's advice, Ethan also contacted the Ohio State Historical Preservation Office at the Ohio History Connection and said his project could be assigned its own historic site number on the database of

historical sites, which Dr. Lepper said is used by developers for consultation when they're working on projects.

"Federal legislation requires them to consult that, to at least beware that (historical) sites are in the area as they make considerations to plan their development," he said.

"I do plan to work on that over winter break," Ethan said.

Dr. Lepper, who speculated that the pits were in use during the late 1800s, was impressed with Ethan's instincts for contacting archeologists and getting guidance for his project, citing his "remarkable initiative and dedication for doing things right."

"The thing that impressed me the most was his documentation of his finds," Dr. Lepper said. "He was taking very good photos; and the fact that he was wanting to work



**Granville Historical Society collections manager Cynthia Cort works with Ethan White on the identification of a bottle. BELOW: Ethan at work with a metal detector.**



with professionals, and that he was doing such a good job documenting his finds. I admired that."

There's more to identifying and cataloging artifacts, however, that Dr. Lepper wanted to make sure White was aware of.

"I wanted to make sure that he was doing it right, ethically and legally," he said. "He told me right away that it was his property." And Ethan did ask for permission from a neighboring property owner to search the creek area where he found the nutting stone.

Ethan is appreciative of the Society's cooperation with the project. And he's made it clear that he's available in the future as a volunteer, "post-COVID".

One would think that with this kind of experience, an archeology major is in the offing once Ethan enters college. Well... not so fast.

"Architecture is something I'm interested in," he said. "Also environmental science. Business as well. I'm not entirely sure about what college (to attend)."

*Charles A. Peterson, retired editor of The Granville Sentinel, is a member of the Granville Historical Society Board of Managers and editor of The Historical Times.*

# ‘Pop quiz’ tests your knowledge of Granville

Here we are, again, testing our reader's knowledge of local history. The order of the questions 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 a connection to a book that Laura Evans has written for the Granville Historical Society. *Granville's Tycoon: John Sutphin Jones and the Gilded Age*, is now available at the Granville Historical Museum or online at [granvillehistorical.org](http://granvillehistorical.org).

**True or false: John Sutphin Jones built the original Monomoy House.**

False. Dr Alfred Follett, J.S. Jones's eventual father-in-law, built it. Jones expanded it significantly, even adding a ballroom on the third floor.

**Has anyone who lived in Granville participated in the Olympics?**

Not just one, but three residents have competed. Fred Lovejoy, national champion in the 220-yard dash in 1923, ran against "Chariots of Fire" figures Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell in the 1924 Paris Summer Olympics; and Lea Ann Parsley won a Silver Medal in the Skeleton competition in the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Not only did she participate, she medaled! In addition, Gahanna native Amanda Adkins Schneider, who currently lives in Granville, swam in the 200-meter backstroke in the 2000 Sydney Olympics, placing fifth.

**What were the objects that were thrown during the great Granville Riot?**

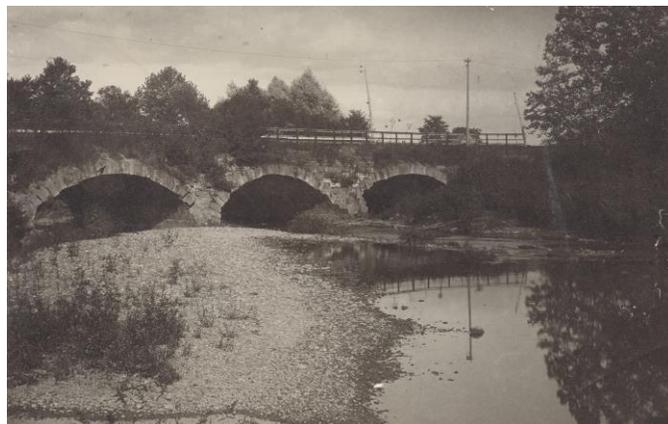
Eggs.

**Why did street names such as Morning Street, Evening Street, Water Street, Equality Street, and so on change to names of trees and flowers?**

The 1889 national Arbor Movement brought a fostering of trees onto Granville's bare and bleak landscape (as well as Garden Clubs, beautification consciousness, and new street names to Granville and elsewhere.) Even Mourning Street, which led east from the cemetery, lost its name.

**Why did the Ohio and Erie canal build a branch from Newark to Granville in about 1833?**

To provide fresh water since Heath marked one



**Showman's Arch, above, on Cherry Valley Road was an aqueduct that took canal boats over Raccoon Creek to the Ohio and Erie Canal.**

of the highest spots on the Canal. The “feeder” extended to the end of Clouse Lane, where there was a turning basin. Granville residents saw the feeder as a way to connect to the rest of the country and later extended it approximately to South Main. Feeder Schmeeder, they thought — it offered a huge commercial opportunity and made trade into and out of Granville vastly simpler. Buckeye Lake was also built to be a fresh water source for the Canal, since Ohio has no natural lakes within its boundaries.

**Where is the Ohio and Erie Canal aqueduct that took canal boats over Raccoon Creek? Bonus: what is the name of that aqueduct?**

On Cherry Valley Road just northwest of Reddington Road in Newark. “Showman's Arch.”

**When use of the Old Colony Burying Ground dwindled to a halt in the late 19th century, about how many people had been buried there?**

It is estimated that about 2,000 burials took place at Old Colony during its nearly 100 years of active use, but not all burials ever had headstones.

**How large was the police force before 1960? Where was the police station in the 1930s?**

The “force” had one part-time officer on duty at any time, and before 1965 may have had a “marshal” only. For a period, the police department was a telephone that hung either from a pole near the present-day Certified Station, or from a pole in front of the Aladdin in the central business district. Into the 1970s, if you didn't have your driver's license

with you when you were caught committing a traffic violation, you could simply go home, get the license, and meet Police Chief Ralph “Red” Pettit at the Aladdin, where he would write out your ticket and keep an eye on his restaurant at the same time.

**As we reenter a time of home delivery of groceries, what extra touch would delivery boys from local groceries up through the 1960s add?**

They would come in the back door and put your groceries away in cupboards and the refrigerator. The bill didn’t come until the end of the month.

**How high did the great Granville flood of 1979 reach?**

Across West Broadway west of the Beechwood intersection and almost up to the Granville Lumber Company on South Main, farther up the street than the March 2020 flood.

**How many veterans are buried in the Old Colony Burying Ground, and what wars did they serve in?**

The Old Colony is the resting place of about 75 veterans, who served in six wars — the Colonial Wars, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Mexican-American War, and World War I.

**What is the longest running business on Broadway?**

The Aladdin, with no serious competition. It continues to have the only neon sign allowed by village zoning because of grandfathering.

**In the days of the all-volunteer fire department, when all three Broadway grocers were members of the department, who would mind the store when the siren rang and the grocers quickly took off their aprons and ran to the fire station?**

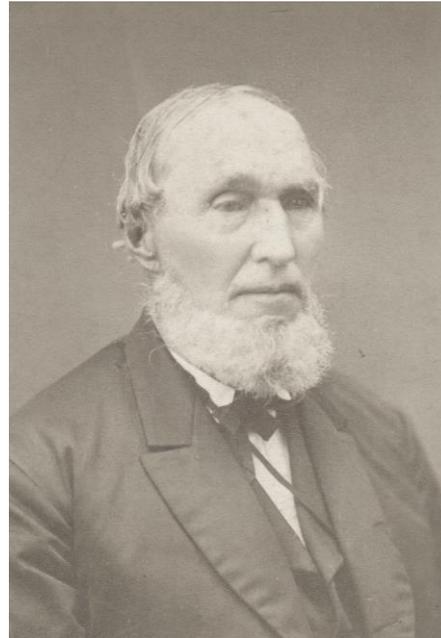
There were usually two more employees working at the store, usually wives or children of the grocers, and they would cover any of the stores (including those of competitors), which had no one on hand when the owner was off fighting a fire.

**Weaver Drive/River Road are in line for future development. What other name did that street go by?**

Lovers Lane.

**What is the name of the creek that runs through the golf course?**

Clear Run. It once powered a foundry and provided plenty of water for the tannery in early



**Rev. Jacob Little, who in the 19<sup>th</sup> century spent New Year’s Day publicly reporting the transgressions Granvilleans committed in the previous year.**

industrial Granville.

**What building occupied the current Lutheran Church location on West Broadway?**

Its predecessor was a Sunoco gas station.

**What was the name of the Presbyterian pastor who in three years successfully turned Granville from a very wet to a very dry town?**

The Reverend Jacob Little, who spread agents through Granville to record transgressions, usually meaning alcohol use — by specific transgression, perpetrator, and date. He then gathered the town residents on the Presbyterian lawn on New Years Day and read off each event (including perpetrator) and its details. In three years, about 1830, a vast majority had “taken the pledge,” and the village went legally dry.

**Where in Granville did the John Birch Society, an archconservative anti-Communist group from the McCarthy era, have a meeting?**

The Old Academy Building, now owned by the Granville Historical Society. At various times the building housed a school for girls, a Welsh Church, and served as the Grange Hall, a farmers group building.

**Where was a fugitive slave trial held in 1841?**

Moved from Newark, it took place in the Old Academy building. The fugitive was freed.

**TO BE CONTINUED!**

*These “pop quiz” questions were assembled by Tom Martin of the Granville Historical Society, reviewed by Rob Drake and Kevin Bennett.*

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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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