



Modern Times



2019

Benjamin B. Loar Rifle Donated to Society

Benjamin B. Loar was a gunsmith. He moved to Granville in the 1840s and set up shop where the Methodist Church parking lot is now. A daguerreotype of this shop is one of the oldest pictures we have of Granville. At this time in the Midwest, gunsmiths would buy the most complicated parts of rifles from New York or Pennsylvania and assemble them with a locally made stock and barrel. According to Bushnell's History of Granville (1889) the shop burned down in April of 1857. In the 1870s Loar and his family moved to Newark where he worked as a jeweler and watchmaker with premises on the square. He was granted a patent in 1876 for an improvement on gages for fitting watch crystals.



Last month The Granville Historical Society collections was given a small cap and ball muzzle-loaded rifle made by Loar. It came from the George W. Smeltzer family of California. Mr. Smeltzer was born in 1846 in Troy, Ohio. No one knows how or when he acquired the gun but its small size suggests that he was still a boy at the time. By the time of the Civil War, his family had moved to Muncie, Indiana. In February 1865, at the age of 19, he enlisted in the 147th Indiana Infantry Regiment carrying the gun with him. The rifle is marked B.B. Loar, Granville O. on the barrel. It is accompanied by shot pouches, bullet mold, powder horn, strap and belt buckle. We are very happy to have these items to add to our collections. Thank you, Richard Smeltzer. ~ Cynthia Cort

Introducing Our Officers and Board Members for 2020

Museum Hours

Christmas Candlelight Walking Tour hours
4 - 8
Old Academy Building
2 - 5

Research Archives Hours

All Year on
Thursdays Only
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Enter through the Robinson Research Center on the west side of the building.

Archivists are available to assist researchers Thursdays or by appointment.

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