



History Popping Up in Our Garden

Museum Hours

Saturday – 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Sunday – 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Archives Hours

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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There's something new this summer at the Granville Historical Society.

Stationed outside and in front of the museum are three new "story boards" highlighting aspects of Granville's early history. The weather-proof informational panels - 18 by 20 inches in size - tell the stories of:

- The Granville area prior to settlement in the early 19th century when Native Americans occupied the land, prior to the arrival of settlers from Granville, Mass., in 1805.
- The arrival of the Welsh settlers in 1801 and how the area northeast of the Village of Granville, known as the Welsh Hills, evolved.
- Downtown Granville as it developed from the early 19th century, with two of the earliest known photos of the Granville business district, circa 1850.

The story boards project was made possible with a grant from the Granville Community Foundation.

It is hoped that the panels create enough interest by both visitors and Granville residents to come into the museum to learn more about Granville History.

An Ohio Historical Marker just inside the museum's front gate describes the history of the 1816 stone structure that is one of Granville's oldest buildings: now the front room in the museum.

"That really doesn't explain who we are - the people who are actually in this building now, and what we do," Society's Office Administrator, Jodi Lavelly, said of the marker. "So that was part of the idea - provide something outside that people could read to get them a little more excited and interested about what we do."

The "Granville's Earliest Residents" board includes a graphic that is the combination of a map of the area's Native American mounds, a topographic map and a modern street map. An aerial photo of the Alligator Mound on the hill at the end of Bryn Du Drive and another of a 1930 photo of a mound that once stood near Sharon Valley Road were provided by Brad Lepper of the Ohio History Connection. The Society's photographer, Ron Sherwood, made photos of the Native American tools found in the area.

"Granville's Welsh Hills" also features a map of the area in northeast Granville Township settled by the newcomers from Wales, with drawings of significant buildings that once stood in the area. There are also photos of two buildings: the Welsh Hills Baptist Church that still stands, and a Welsh schoolhouse without its roof, not long before it was razed. A circa 1966 photo of a scenic view of the Welsh Hills from the top of a hill in the Evergreen Hills subdivision - the marriage of two photos side-by-side - was provided by Jodi.

The "Granville's Broadway" panel includes photos of the north side of the East Broadway business district. Since the museum is on the south side, the panel is situated so that viewers can look up from the historic photos and compare them to what the business district looks like today. Most intriguing is the Daguerreotype photo of the north side of Broadway downtown taken in approximately 1850. A 1929 photo of the same block is also included. There are also photos of the less-photographed north side of Broadway from the St. Luke's Church building on the right, going east toward South Prospect Street. The buildings east from the bank building were destroyed in a fire in 1927.

Prior to finalizing the panels, area residents were invited to view them to provide feedback for possible improvements.

Historical Society Board of Managers president Heidi Drake said the panels help the organization further its mission of sharing Granville's history.

"The Granville Historical Society is devoted to the history of this area and the information panels are a wonderful way to introduce people to some of the important aspects of our history as they wander around Granville," she said.

