



Loved Ones On The Move

Museum Hours

Friday – 3:00-7:00 p.m.
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.

Board of Managers:

Heidi Drake, President
Chuck Peterson, Vice President
Amy Welsh, Secretary
Kim Manley, Treasurer

Class of 2022

Elizabeth Wilson
J. David Rinehart
Sam Schnaidt

Class of 2023

Jennifer Graham
Steve Thaxton

Class of 2024

Erik Yassenoff
Evelyn Frolking
Greg Dixon

President Emeritus

Cynthia Cort
Tom Martin

Jodi Lavelly

Office Administrator

Archivist - Theresa Overholser

Archivist - Janet Philipps Procida

Collections Manager

Cynthia Cort

Volunteer Coordinator

Lynn Overholser

May Guest Editor - Lyn Boone

New Exhibits in 2022!

Home Industries

Water Powered Heavy Industry

Mechanics and Tinkerers

Local Business Memories

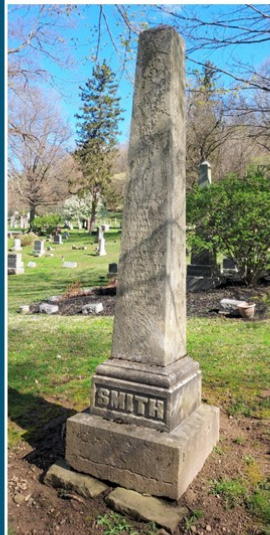
Oese's Kitchen

...in progress and coming soon

Textiles & Clothing

On the west porch of the Granville Historical Society Museum stands the beautiful marble headstone of mid-19th-century Granvillian Apollos Smith. The meticulously carved, framed memorial is an elegant example of Granville's finest old stone-carving. But why is this stunning headstone divorced from the grave it must once have marked?

The answer lies in the history of the Old Colony Burying Ground (OCBG). Established in 1805 at the time of Granville's founding, the OCBG served for six decades as the Village's primary graveyard. With its straight, orderly rows and economical layout, the OCBG was a no-frills utilitarian public space. In the 1860s, however, Maple Grove Cemetery was opened nearby. It featured a park-like environment with many trees, winding drives, and aesthetically pleasing views. The Old Colony, then in decline, was little competition for Maple Grove, which quickly became the fashionable site for burial in Granville.



Indeed, a number of families moved the graves of their loved ones to Maple Grove, and late in the century, the two front rows of graves had to be relocated due to the need to grade South Main Street. According to Theresa Overholser's short history of the OCBG, *Beneath This Sod*, some 130 graves were moved. Among them was the 1857 grave of Apollos Smith. His remains were taken to rest in Maple Grove, probably around 1870, with those of his wife, Delia Jewett Smith. There they share a handsome obelisk memorial.

So what happened to Apollos Smith's original headstone, which now adorns the west porch at the Historical Society? Apparently the Smith stone was simply left behind, discarded as no longer useful. In 1886 when Charles Webster Bryant recorded all then-existing inscriptions in the OCBG, he noted that the stone was lying "out of its base ... just East of the L.D. Mower monument." That is the exact same location where, 106 years later, the marble was found face-down under two inches of sod. It had become an "orphan stone," separated from the gravesite it was created to memorialize, consigned perhaps to use as a mere stepping-stone, or to no use at all. Rediscovered in 1992, it was eventually taken to the Granville Historical Society.

There is evidence of multiple orphan stones from the Old Colony Burying Ground, most of them abandoned under similar circumstances. Some of these discarded stones have traveled around town. A few years ago, the original OCBG headstone for George W. Case (died 1841 and later reburied in Maple Grove) was brought to the Historical Society by a person who found it at Spring Valley Nature Preserve. And I know of two or three more stones that are now an interesting feature in a local residential garden. All are fascinating relics of Granville's original graveyard.

Do you know the whereabouts of other orphan headstones that might have originated in the OCBG? If so, we'd like to hear from you and attempt to verify the stone. If it's authentic and you'd like it to have a permanent home, we may be able to reintegrate it into the OCBG, in a section of the yard set aside for "orphans." As for Apollos Smith's stone, its fragile condition means that it needs to stay safely in its protective frame, under roof at the GHS. And besides, he's a good conversation-starter there!

~Lyn Boone



Old Colony Work Day

The Apollos Smith headstone was rediscovered as a result of the Project to Restore the Old Colony Burying Ground. The Project is ongoing: Each spring, volunteers work to preserve, repair, and maintain the historic site. 2022 is the 31st season! Could you help? To learn more about the project and how you could be involved, email Lyn Boone at boonel@denison.edu.

