



# Modern Times

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2023

July							1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31			

## Rev. Timothy Harris's Clock Returns

An artifact on loan to the Licking County Historical Society has returned and is on display as a part of the Temperance exhibit.

A grandfather clock acquired by a Granville minister during the early 19th century, made by a Granville artisan known as the "clockmaker," is now back in the Granville Historical Society Museum.

The return actually comes in the form of a trade. The GHS is getting what is known as the St. Albans Clock, with its strong Granville ties, from the Licking County Historical Society, where it has been in that organization's care in the Sherwood-Davidson House Museum at Veterans Park in Newark. In exchange for the St. Albans Clock, a similar-vintage grandfather clock the GHS has held in its museum has been donated to the LCHS museum.

The clock was donated to the GHS by Archer Pierson of Worthington, Ohio, a great-grandson of its original owner, the Rev. Timothy Harris, first pastor of what was then the Granville Congregational Church, now the Granville First Presbyterian Church.

The clock was manufactured in neighboring Alexandria by C. F. French and Co. The company's founder, Charles French, lived for a time in the small one-story house with two doors on East Elm Street, located behind the Robins Hunter Museum, gaining it the name "Clockmaker's House."

The clock was built prior to 1820 in the Hepplewhite style, named for British cabinetmaker and designer George Hepplewhite, said Sam Schnaidt of Appletree Auction in Newark, who is a member of the GHS Board of Managers. It stands seven feet, eight inches tall and is operated by a pulley system typical of the period. The wooden clock face's features are painted on, and it sits in a cherry case.

"We were absolutely delighted to be able to return the grandfather clock to the Granville Historical Society," said Howard Long, director of the LCHS. "It's always hard to say good-bye to something so beautiful, but in return we were given a beautiful replacement in its place."



This clock was made in Alexandria. It belonged to TIMOTHY HARRIS, THE first Minister in Granville in the Congregational Church Given to Historical Society by ARCHER DUDLEY PIERSON.

St. Albans Clock Factory was the first clock factory west of the Mountains. Two men produced about 1200 clocks of wooden works. They lived near Alexandria, the barn is still standing, they alternated the work, one man staying six months, and return to New England, AND ANOTHER man would come on stay awhile and return. This clock was given to Rev. Harris a minister in Granville.

## GHS Oral History Project Continues

The Granville Historical Society is re-establishing its mission of pursuing oral history interviews of long-time Granville residents in an effort to fortify information in its Archives and to better record the community's 20th century history.

Society members and all others in the community interested in participating in this important and entertaining endeavor, either as interviewers or interviewees, are invited as plans are being made to pursue several such interviews in coming weeks.

The interviewing process will be modeled after a sophisticated, formal oral history project the Society conducted in 2001 entitled "Hey Granville, Tell Us Your Story!". It was made possible with the help of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Ohio Humanities Council. At least 66 interviews were conducted during that initiative. Questions for interviewees will include recollections of the general community, the downtown business district, schools, popular pastimes and major events, either local or national. Interviews will be recorded, either with smart-phone technology or other available recording devices.

With new technologies making transcription of the interviews much easier than two decades ago, these valuable recollections will be put on paper for perpetuity. Brief training sessions providing guidance and suggesting the kinds of questions to be asked will be conducted. Those interested in participating as interviewers or as interview subjects should contact the Society at granvillehistorical@gmail.com.

Potential interview subjects are also encouraged to incorporate their 20th century photos into the process as well, since the Society has a goal of gaining more photos from that time period.

### Museum Hours

Saturdays - Noon to 4

Sundays - 1 to 3

### Services Provided

#### Year Round

We continue to provide research assistance each

Thursday from 9:30 to 4.

You may also reach us via email, snail mail, our website and phone calls.

### Board of Managers:

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Current board terms extended for one year due to Covid. Dates shown are the original term dates.