

**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.

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Content found herein intended for use from date to date. Dates shown are the original issue dates.



Restored Iron Gates return to Granville's Pioneer Graveyard

Public ribbon-cutting celebration Sunday, Sept. 24, 2:00 p.m. at the site on South Main Street.

Granville's Old Colony Burying Ground will soon be a "gated community" again! The 111-year-old historic iron gates have been completely restored this summer by Blacksmith Kelly Wetzel, and they're beautiful!

One hundred and eleven years after their initial installation, the historic iron gates at the Old Colony Burying Ground in Granville, Ohio, are soon to be reinstalled after a painstaking restoration. A public ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the restoration will be held on Sunday, September 24 at 2:00 p.m. at the historic graveyard on South Main Street in Granville.

The iconic iron structure at the southwest corner of the burying ground was originally erected in 1912 by the then-fledgling Granville Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. Called the Memorial Gate in honor of the 22 Revolutionary War veterans buried in the yard, the elaborate three-part gateway has long been a distinctive landmark in Granville, but in recent years had started to fall victim to the ravages of time. The ironwork was rusting away, some structural bars were pitted and corroded, and parts of the gate mechanisms were bent, frozen, or no longer functional. And like the Memorial Gate, the smaller nineteenth-century pedestrian gate at the northwest corner of the graveyard also had fallen into critical disrepair.

The restoration of both gateways has been achieved at the hands of ironwork artisan Kelly Wetzel of Blackhand Forge in Newark, Ohio. Wetzel brings to the job decades of experience in blacksmithing along with a career-long love of historic ironwork. "We are so fortunate to have found Kelly for this job," said Becky Underhill of the Granville Chapter DAR. "His expertise in treating old ironwork is a rare find in today's world. He's truly giving these ancient gates a new lease on life."

The restorative processes that the gates have undergone include sandblasting, powder coating, painting, and replacement of some ruined parts, which Wetzel has fabricated and installed. Complete disassembly of the gates and removal to offsite workplaces was required for all of this work. Costs for the job have run around \$13,400.

The project has been a collaboration between the Granville DAR and the Granville Union Cemetery Board, which oversees the maintenance and restoration of the Old Colony Burying Ground. These organizations raised more than 70 percent of the cost from their own members and volunteers, and the Granville Community Foundation awarded a generous grant of \$3,560 to complete the needed funding. In addition, in-kind services have been provided by the Granville Township crew, who have assisted Wetzel with dismantling and reinstalling the heavy gates.

"There will be so much to celebrate at the event on September 24," said Lyn Boone, a member of the Union Cemetery Board. "The gates to our unique historic graveyard will be as beautiful again as our grounds and restored monuments. We are all deeply grateful to everyone who has supported this project." The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature remarks by several speakers, a traditional ribbon-cutting, and refreshments. In case of rain, the event will be held at The College Town House, 334 East Broadway in Granville.

Old Colony Burying Ground
S. Main Street,
Granville, Ohio
2:00 p.m.

Rain site 334 East
Broadway, Granville.

Contact:

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Cemetery Board

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Additional Upcoming Events

Thursday, Oct. 5 – "Preserving Granville's Open Space: A History," featuring a new video telling the story and impacts of Granville's open space preservation tax levy; 7 p.m., The Granville Inn's Denison Hall. Panel discussion follows video presentation.

Wednesday, Oct., 18 – "Growing Up in Granville in the '80s," 7 p.m., Granville Historical Society's Robinson Research Center, 115 E. Broadway (rear). Those who grew up in Granville during the 1980s and early 1990s are urged to attend to share recollections of the community during this time.

Wednesday, Nov. 1 – Tom Hankins, "The USA's 250th Birthday Celebration." Tom Hankins, a Granville resident, Revolutionary War reenactor and member of the Sons of the American Revolution, will discuss the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026 – the "semiquincentennial" – and his role as a member of the Ohio Semiquincentennial Commission. (Rescheduled from spring postponement.)

Wednesday, Nov. 15 – "Saving the Sullivan—Restoring & Reimagining Newark's National Treasure," discussing the restoration of the Newark's Jewel Box bank designed by architect Louis Sullivan, presented by Connie Hawk, President, Licking County Foundation. 7:30 p.m., Amelia Room, Otterbein Senior Care, Granville. The program is part of the Granville Historical Society's annual meeting.

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