

*G*RANVILLE, OHIO
A Study in Continuity and Change

VOLUME I

A Purpose,
A Plan, A Place

Edited by

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PREFACE

The year 2005 marks the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Granville by settlers from Granville, Massachusetts, and Granby, Connecticut. Granville is a village that has always been keenly aware of its history and culture. In order to duly celebrate this bicentennial milestone, Denison University Professor Emeritus Tony Stoneburner, erstwhile president of the Granville Historical Society, several years ago began the process leading to the research and writing of a comprehensive three-volume history of the village and township. To this end, nine historians were commissioned to write a new narrative history of Granville (Volume One of this set.). There are two previously published histories of Granville: William T. Utter's *Granville: The Story of an Ohio Village* (1956) and Henry Bushnell's earlier *The History of Granville, Licking County, Ohio* (1889). Utter wrote for Granville's sesquicentennial, and, as with the present volume, published under the auspices of The Denison University Press. A third text, by Horace King, *Granville: Massachusetts to Ohio: A Story of the Migration and Settlement* (1989), includes a collection of drawings of significant Granville buildings.

The connection of Granville's history with Denison University is long and storied. Denison supported the publication of William Utter's book and Charles Browne White's collection of historical essays, *The Philosopher of Mt Parnassus*, also

under the imprint of the Denison University Press. President Dale Knobel wrote the introduction and kindly provided the institutional financial support for this new historical project.

The freshly commissioned history in Volume One augments Utter's narrative in several ways. A chapter is devoted to the Native American peoples, which Professor Utter passed over almost in silence. This volume treats more fully the period from the turn of the century until the advent of the Second World War, which is treated only sketchily in Utter's text. The important narrative of the last half of the twentieth century, written by Professor Jack Kirby, moves beyond the written history where Utter finished in 1956. Other notable features are the comparison and contrast of Granville and Worthington's early New England roots in Chapter Two, written by Professor Richard Shields of The Ohio State University. Colonel Kevin Bennett's treatment of several Civil War officers from Granville covers issues not found in Utter's account. Professors G. Wallace Chessman and Anthony Lisska's Chapter Five integrates well in one place the stories of the village and its educational institutions in the last part of the nineteenth century. Professor Donald Schilling describes the First World War and the Great Depression with a finesse not found in prior historical narratives of Granville. Colonel Bennett and Mr. Martin have different takes on the Granville riot, which are developed in Chapter Three. Dr. Megan Lisska's novella of Nellie Oakes adds a literary genre to the usual historical narrative. All these items and more suggest that this book-length narrative promises to be a significant contribution in the historical chronicle and explanation of Granville, an Ohio community strongly and uniquely linked with its New England past.

There are two other components to this 2005 Bicentennial Historical Project. Volume Two is a collection of essays related to the history of Granville. This volume is edited by Denison University Professor Emeritus of History, Clarke Wilhelm, a

recognized American historian. These essays augment in more detail many historical events and people treated briefly in Volume One. Volume Three is a collection of historically significant photographs and maps of Granville, edited by Ms. Theresa Overholser and Ms. Florence Hoffman, both Archivists of the Granville Historical Society. Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Overholser assembled the photographs used in this volume and wrote the explanatory captions that describe their place in Granville's history.

The three-volume set is the most comprehensive narrative and illustrated history of Granville ever published. Bushnell's book is at best a chronicle, and Utter's book, while important, gives but a cursory treatment of the first half of the twentieth century. Professor Emerita of History at Muskingum College, Lorle Porter, remarked that this project promises to set a new standard for local history writing and publication.

Dr. Louis I. Middleman undertook the monumental task of copy editor for this volume; this entailed his reading and commenting on each of the nine chapters. Without his eagle-eye acuity and careful reading, this volume would not be as coherent as it now stands. Dr. Middleman brought the various chapters into a nearly seamless whole. Before the copy-editing process, long-time Granville resident and former President of the Granville Historical Society, Mr. Robert Drake, generously read all of the chapters in this volume for historical accuracy and inclusiveness. Another long-time Granville resident, Ms. Pat Davis, kindly incorporated Mr. Drake's insights into new computer files before Dr. Middleman's copy editing. Bicentennial Publication Chair Mr. Thomas B. Martin's wisdom and good humor have continually assisted in the completion of this publishing project. All these people gave magnanimously of their time and energy towards the successful completion of this significant publication project honoring Granville's two hundredth birthday. And finally we acknowledge with gratitude

the thoughtful financial support provided by Denison University and President Dale Knobel and the grants from the Granville Foundation and the 2005 Bicentennial Commission, whose generosity helped underwrite the publication costs of this historical project. Ms. Marianne Lisska's eagle eye proof reading skills once again rendered the texts less encumbered with publishing miscues.

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