THE CIVIL WAR & GRANVILLE

An Ohio Community's Outsized Contribution

B. KEVIN BENNETT
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U.S. ARMY (RET.)

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The Civil War & Granville:
An Ohio Community's Outsized Contribution

Granville Historical Society Pocket History No. 3

by B. Kevin Bennett, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)

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Front cover image depicts "the Fighting Roses," three brothers and three cousins from various Rose families in the Granville area. All were members of Company D, 113th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Three of these men died while in service, two of them in the Battle of Chickamauga. Front cover photo courtesy of Dennis Keesee, New Albany, Ohio; colorization by Jason Roth. All other photos and images provided by the Denison University Archives, the Granville Historical Society, the U.S. Army Military History Institute and the author.

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Granville Historical Society
P.O. Box 129, Granville, OH 43023
740-587-3951 • office@granvillehistory.org
www.granvillehistory.org

Contents

DEDICATED TO

Dr. Donald Schilling
Teacher and Civic Leader
Cursum Perficio

THE CIVIL WAR & GRANVILLE

Prologue

One of the most fascinating aspects of Granville is that, while the community has carved out a well-known reputation as a center for arts and education, it also has established an admirable record of national service during times of war. Although largely forgotten, a review of historical records quickly reveals that the Granville community has consistently responded to the nation's call during conflicts from the War of 1812 to the present. This was never truer than during our greatest national crisis, the Civil War.

Having recently recovered from two successive periods of recession and disruption, the outbreak of the war saw a long-suffering community on the doorstep of economic success. Despite this, hundreds of local men put their own personal lives aside and went off in response to President Lincoln's call to preserve the Union. Nor was it just the recruiting and marching off of the local lads to fight. For the greater Granville community it was a collective effort on both the battlefield and home front starting the day Fort Sumter was fired on and continuing until the last troops returned home. Always

exceeding their recruiting quotas, Granville was one of the few Ohio communities not subjected to having its male citizens drafted. This small community also produced an incredible number of individuals who rose during the war to become senior military leaders achieving national prominence.

Taken as a whole, the role the Granville community played during the Civil War is well worth recalling, and one would be hard pressed to find any other similarly sized community in the nation that matched, let alone exceeded, its contributions. The sacrifices made by the local men, women, and students represented the very best of what it meant to be American at that time. It is an extraordinary story that merits being part of our collective memory.

Granville and the Coming Storm

By the autumn of 1860 the United States was on the verge of civil war. The presidential race had resulted in the election of Abraham Lincoln, candidate of the Republican Party. Firmly committed to contain slavery with a view to its eventual eradication, Lincoln was elected solely with support from the Northern states. Prior to the election Granville was witness again to considerable political activity, with advocates of Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas (the Northern Democrat candidate) vying with each other through marches and rallies. While Licking County as a whole tended to vote Democrat, Granville with its anti-slavery traditions was a hotbed of support for the Republican Party. Having voted for Gen. John Fremont, the first presidential candidate of the new party in 1856, both the township and village returned a strong majority for Lincoln in the election of 1860, casting 364 votes in his favor with 103 for Douglas, twelve for John Bell of the Constitutional Party, and eight votes for John Breckinridge, the Southern Democrat candidate. The Granville community was to remain "rock-ribbed Republican" in its political views and has cast the majority of its votes for that party's candidate in every presidential election since. Despite the fact that the two major parties have since changed positions on the ideological

spectrum, with the Democrats now the party of strong central government and the Republicans favoring deference to individual and local initiative, the one constant of the Granville community over the years has been its adherence to the party of Lincoln.

The War Comes

Lincoln's election in November 1860 was unmistakable proof for many Southerners that the abolitionists had won control of the federal government and that Southern interests were now in great danger. While Lincoln's position was in actuality a moderate one designed to prevent the spread of slavery to the western territories, this distinction was lost upon the increasingly hostile Southern states. By spring 1861 seven states of the deep South had seceded from the Union to form the Confederate States of America. The citizens of Granville closely followed the breakup of the Union through the telegraph and Newark newspapers. The news of the firing on Ft. Sumter and its subsequent surrender spread rapidly, and there could be little doubt that the next step by the federal government would be to send troops into the Southern states to bring them back into the Union by force. As expected, President Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to put down the rebellion, resulting in the further secession of four states of the upper South.

In a scene repeated in hundreds of small towns and villages throughout the North, there was considerable excitement and a rush to volunteer. Citizens' meetings were held and collections were taken to assist the soldiers and their families. The mood and events of Granville during that time are captured in a letter written by Sarah Sinnett, the young wife of Dr. Edwin Sinnett, a prominent local physician:

> . . . Oh! This has been a sad day, sad indeed. The past week has been one of the most intense excitement. War! War! is the first conversation wherever two meet. Yesterday the fife & drum were playing up and down the street, and volunteers were marching to its sad music. There are about sixty now enlisted and they want

> enough to make 75. I don't know all their names. Some of them are Will Wright, Nelson Sinnet (sic), Cyrus Hughes, Goulding, Ben Gardener, Homer Thrall, Alvanus Sheldon, and others I cannot mention. They wore their badges to church today, and in Sabbath-school remarks were made of their leaving, and there was scarce a dry eye in the house. They expect to leave this week, to go where Governor Dennison may send them. We had a union meeting Friday night and two thousand dollars were readily subscribed. Dr. gave fifty, Mr. Kerr one hundred and so on. There was a beautiful flag raised on the lower Sem yesterday and one on the cottage. There is some talk that college is going to break up, and if it is necessary they will form another company and go. Some think Ohio will be the first state to be invaded. There is so much excitement here, the telegraph office is thronged, by forty or fifty men as soon as a dispatch is put out. Oh! I don't know what will become of us. I feel as though we would all be in danger. Dr. says if he is needed he must go. Oh! How many sad hearts will bleed for friends near, and dear….

Mrs. Sinnett's premonitions proved correct as her husband marched off two months later to serve as a regimental surgeon in the 17th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

As noted in the letter, the Denison community was not immune from the turmoil that was sweeping across Granville and the nation. Studies and classes gave way to earnest discussions on secession and whether to forsake school and sign up for military service. The conclusion of the spring term saw the departure of a number of young men for the Union Army accompanied by the quiet exit of a number of Southern students for their homes and likely military service for Dixie. In light of this uncertainty, the outlook for the next school year was indeed clouded.

The War Front

With the outbreak of war, the men of the Granville community responded enthusiastically to the call for volunteers. Patriotism and the desire to preserve the Union motivated many, some saw it as

Company D, 22nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry at Corinth, Mississippi, in June 1862. Nineteen Granville men served in this unit; four would not return home.

Hand-drawn pencil sketch in honor of Albert Root of Granville (not to be confused with Albert Rose, who also died in the war). A military telegrapher, Root died in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in May 1864 of dysentery. It is unknown if Root was a member of the Granville Cornet Band.

participation in a crusade to end the evil of slavery, others joined out of a desire to escape the boredom of village life and the farm. In the first year of the war alone, 334 men from the area had donned the Union blue, far above the quota established. This does not even include several dozen unable to join locally organized units who traveled to other locations to enlist. Throughout the war, Granville always exceeded its enlistment quota, thereby claiming the honor of the only community in Licking County to do so. By the war's end over six hundred men from the village and township had served, though this double-counts men who served in several different units in the course of the war. Nonetheless, this is a remarkable number considering that the combined population of the township and village was 2919 according to the 1860 census. Subtracting those men not of military age, women, and children, it quickly becomes evident that this community more than did its part. In addition to serving, many men made the ultimate sacrifice, with 64 men from the village, township, and Denison dead as a result of battle, disease, or accident while in military service. Scores of others received wounds but survived. Some were mentally scarred by the war.

Men from the village and the township saw action in virtually every theater of the war and were present at many crucial battles. A few of the initial volunteers joined a company organized in Newark that became part of the 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry (OVI). This unit went on to campaign in Kentucky, fighting at the bloody battle of Perryville where the first combat deaths of Licking County men were suffered. Others followed Dr. Sinnett and became part of the 17th OVI. They were initially quartered in hastily built wooden barracks at the Fairfield County fairground at the foot of Mt. Pleasant. After two months of training the unit left Lancaster for western Virginia (after June 1863 the separate state of West Virginia) where they participated in the campaign to wrest the area from Confederate control. Under the overall command of Gen. George B. McClellan, Union forces won a series of small but decisive battles, driving the Confederate forces back across the Appalachian Range. This early victory secured the Ohio River and erased any serious threat of invasion of this state. During this campaign, the Granville men were under the field

command of Major General William S. Rosecrans, who hailed from nearby Homer, Ohio. This military relationship was to last for the next two years through many of the war's bitterest battles.

After the disastrous defeat at Bull Run in July 1861 it became evident to both sides that the war would not be won through one quick battle. There was a renewed drive to enlist an additional 500,000 men and the term of service was now set at three years as opposed to the three-month enlistments of the first units. Recruiting of replacements was continued to the end of the war with Granville being represented in numerous Union regiments. Most of those recruited from Granville served in the campaigns along the Mississippi, Cumberland, and Tennessee Rivers as well as Sherman's famed March to the Sea. Those Granville men who served in this western theater saw some of the toughest campaigning of the war.

Many local lads in the summer and fall of 1861 sought to join the 76th OVI, which was known as the "Licking County Regiment." A prominent Granville merchant, William S. Wright, recruited a number of local men for the 76th although there was an insufficient number to form their own company. One of the top one hundred fighting regiments of the Civil War in terms of number of casualties suffered, the 76th compiled a distinguished service record. It first saw action in early 1862 under Gen. U.S. Grant at the capture of Ft. Donelson and at the bloody battle of Shiloh. It was actively engaged during the Vicksburg campaign that severed the Confederacy in two and ensured that, as President Lincoln said, the Mississippi "now ran unvexed to the sea." Under the command of Col. William Woods of Newark (later a U.S. Supreme Court Justice), the regiment joined the Union forces sent to relieve the besieged army at Chattanooga, where the unit played a key role in the Battle of Lookout Mountain, participated in the storming of Missionary Ridge, and suffered a painful repulse at Ringgold Gap. As part of the army of Gen. William T. Sherman, himself born just a few miles south of Granville in Lancaster, the 76th participated in the Atlanta Campaign and the March to the Sea. The end of the war saw the regiment with Sherman on his march through the Carolinas. It took part in forty-seven

battles, marched over 10,000 miles, and lost over 350 men during its campaigns. Seventeen of these men had called Granville home.

The 22nd OVI was another three-year regiment that contained nineteen young men from the Granville area in Company D. It too fought under Grant in the Union victories at Ft. Donelson, Shiloh, and Vicksburg. Afterwards this unit was transferred to Arkansas, where it spent the remainder of the war combating Confederate guerillas and restoring that state to Union control. Four local men who served under this unit's flag were laid to rest in Southern graves.

The unit most closely identified with the community was Company D of the 113th OVI. Called "Granville's Own," it was recruited in the summer of 1862 by Marvin Munson, a lawyer and prominent civic leader who was the son of one of Granville's original settlers. Complemented with volunteers from Denison and neighboring St. Albans Township, the company was bid farewell in a ceremony by the side of the Baptist church in August 1862. With the unit drawn up in formation and surrounded by a large crowd of relatives and friends, numerous prayers for their safe return, accompanied by patriotic songs, marked their departure. Of the 97 who marched out on that sunny summer day, 34 would meet their end far from the rolling hills and fields of Granville.

After several months of basic military training at Camp Zanesville, the unit then went to Camp Dennison outside of Cincinnati for further training and issuance of more modern firearms. Their first real military "duty" came in the hills of Eastern Kentucky, guarding that area from Confederate incursions. For many, the hardships of camp living in winter conditions, accompanied by stretches of boredom, served to dispel any illusions of the glories of soldiering. Illustrative of this was the journal annotation of one soldier that the company "D" designation stood for the "Donkeys and Dunces" who had left the comforts of civilian life to become soldiers. Several men deserted.

Maintaining personal hygiene and combating disease were the paramount "battles" fought on a daily basis. The workings of germs, bacteria, and their transmission were all but unknown, and sanitary conditions were usually very poor. In their primitive camp settings

members of Company D were afflicted that first winter with infestations of lice (nicknamed "graybacks") that resulted in almost the whole company having their heads shaved and in laying out their blankets and clothes in the snow in hopes that the cold would kill the pests. Camp life also began to take another form of toll. William H. Avery, a Granville native and student from Denison, noted in his letters that several of the men had become addicted to profanity; this included, to his dismay, Albert Rose, the son of Deacon William Rose.

That first winter also witnessed another form of disillusionment, in this case with the leadership of Captain Munson. It should be noted that during the Civil War volunteer units were afforded the right to elect their own officers. This usually resulted in the election of the person who had the influence and money to be authorized to organize and recruit the unit. Clearly, this did not always lend itself to the selection of the best soldiers. Frictions appear to have built up that first winter, and Munson and Lt. Frank A. Eno abruptly resigned their commissions and returned home for "health reasons." Some have cited an ongoing dispute with the regimental commander over a disciplinary matter as the basis for the resignations. Other evidence suggests a fundamental breach between the officers and men. In a contemporary letter William Avery noted that Munson "does not have a friend in the whole company. I never saw men so bitter towards another as our men are toward him. Some swear vengeance on him if they live to go home and find him alive." Another soldier mocked Lt. Eno in a letter home recalling that, at the election of officers, Eno had "promised to be by their side to the bitter end" but had now "skedaddled home" before their first battle. Whatever the true story, they were replaced by a Captain Thomas Downey and the popular Lt. Charles Sinnett, brother to Dr. Edwin Sinnett.

Later that month the company was able to put the unpleasantness of Eastern Kentucky behind when they boarded a steamer that took them to the bustling city of Nashville, then under Union control. While stationed on garrison duty in that city Albert Rose died of disease in a military hospital under the command of Dr. Edward Sinnett. The first from Granville to die in the conflict, his remains were shipped home to be buried amid the universal sorrow of the

Lt. Charles Sinnett of Company D, 113th OVI.

whole community. As part of the Union Army of the Cumberland under the command of Major General Rosecrans, the Granville boys were part of the force that moved on the strategically important city of Chattanooga in the summer of 1863. After occupying that city they continued their pursuit of the retreating Confederate forces. On September 19–20 the Confederates turned on their pursuers, clashing

at Chickamauga Creek in north Georgia. Often referred to as the "Gettysburg of the West," this climatic battle was to find the Granville boys in the vortex of one of the most hotly contested points of the battlefield. On the second day of the battle a command blunder resulted in a Union division being pulled out of the battle line just prior to a massive Confederate attack striking that very point. Smashing through the gap, the Confederates quickly began driving the stunned Union forces from the field and back to Chattanooga. A segment of the Union Army under the command of General George Thomas rallied and formed a new battle line on a series of hills and ridges protecting the roads to Chattanooga. Here they held their ground against repeated assaults, hoping to gain precious time for the remainder of the Union Army to retreat safely into the fortifications of that city. Greatly outnumbered, the Union forces faced the imminent prospect of being overwhelmed as they lacked the necessary troops to hold all of the line along the aptly named Horseshoe Ridge.

The 113th OVI was assigned to the Reserve Corps under Gen. Gordon Granger, which started the day safely distant from the battlefield. Despite the lack of definitive orders, Granger made the decision to march to the sound of gunfire and opportunely arrived at Horseshoe Ridge at the critical moment. After crossing an open field while being subjected to a galling cannonade, the unit was then ordered to take position immediately on the top of Horseshoe Ridge. Running up the steep hillside through vine-tangled woods, the 113th OVI reached the crest of the ridge just as an equally fatigued unit of Tennessee Confederates arrived from the opposite side. A confused stand-up fight among the smoke and heat raged for about fifteen minutes with both sides exchanging deadly volleys at a distance of twenty yards or less. The Union men, braced by the knowledge that their defeat or retreat from their foothold on the crest would doom the Union army, proved to be the more tenacious as the Confederates finally retreated in disorder down their side of the ridge. This was to prove to be only the first of many trials in a bitter and prolonged stand atop the Ridge as the thin blue line containing Company D, 113th OVI held out against repeated assaults and heavy odds

Regimental marker on Horseshoe Ridge, Chickamauga Battlefield. Here, the men from Granville stood their ground against seven determined Confederate assaults. They suffered twenty casualties during the day's bitter fight.

throughout the afternoon and evening. Under the cover of darkness the Union forces withdrew back towards the relative safety of Chattanooga, their mission of gaining precious time to protect the army accomplished. Their desperate stand, however gallant, came at high cost with eight Granville men lying dead on Horseshoe Ridge and twelve others wounded. The day after the battle, Sergeant F. J. Cressy, who had left his studies at Denison to enlist, wrote a letter on

a small piece of wrapping paper, marked "In Haste," that transmitted the awful news to Granville.

Bivouac near Battlefield
Sept. 21, 1863

Lt. F.A. Eno Dear Sir:

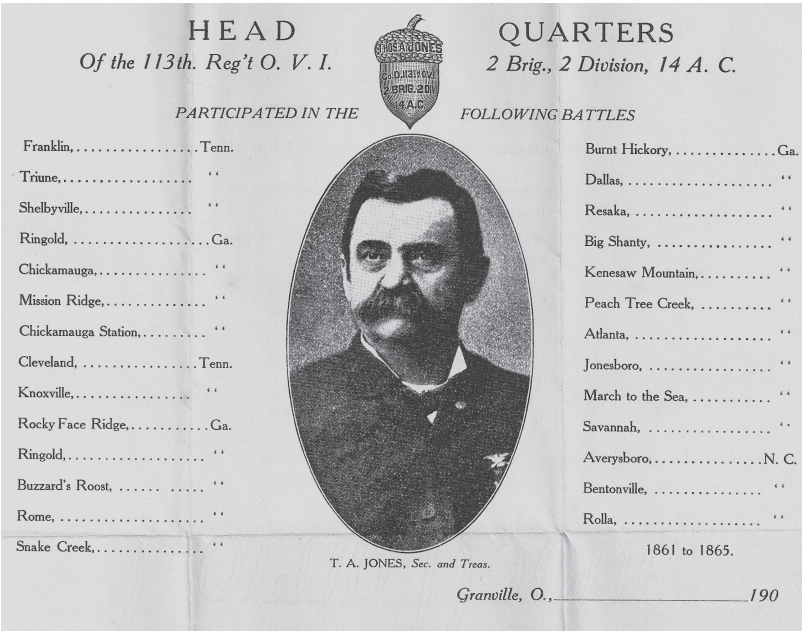
A heavy battle took place yesterday 10 miles south of Chattanooga on the road to Rome Ga. Our reg't went in at 2 P.M. & fought 4 hours. Our Co. D lost 8 killed, viz. J.W. Gooding, Daniel Rose, G.D. Haslop, H.L. Hobart, J.H. Tucker, David Dunn, Hiram Paige, Lyman B. Pratt, Wounded 12, B.W. Mason (in right thigh), A. Barclay (left wrist), Lewis Williams (cheek torn off), R. Flahards (left hand), H.C. Carlock (shoulder), Lewis Rose (both legs), M.C. Messenger (both thighs), Rufus Merrill (head), Jacob Pitts (leg), A.J. Chambers (uncertain), A.J. Jones (knocked over by a horse), J.F. Cheek (uncertain). Missing 10, mostly stragglers & coming in . . .

It was terrible. Please tell all our friends & oblige Yr friend.

Serg't .J. Cressy

The tragic impact that receipt of this correspondence would have back in Granville was probably only surpassed by that experienced by the survivors of this battle. Nor was this the end of the trial by combat for Company D. The next spring and summer saw its participation in the drive to capture Atlanta. At Kennesaw Mountain and Jonesboro they again found themselves in the "white heat" of the fight with yet further casualties. After Sherman's successful March to the Sea, the final phase of the war found the men of Company D deep inside North Carolina eliminating the last pockets of Confederate armed resistance.

No account of the units in which local men played a prominent part would be complete without mention of the 135th OVI (National Guard). Consisting mostly of men who were too young, too old, or unfit for regular service, they enlisted with the primary mission of protecting their state from any Confederate raids or invasion and to maintain order in the event of any unrest. In spring 1864, in order to release as many regular troops as possible for service with General



HEAD QUARTERS

Of the 113th. Reg't O. V. I. *2 Brig., 2 Division, 14 A. C.*

THOS. A. JONES
CO. D 113TH O.V.I.
2 BRIG. 2 DIV.
14 A.C.

PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING BATTLES

Franklin, ... Tenn.
Triune, ... ''
Shelbyville, ... ''
Ringold, ... Ga.
Chickamauga, ... ''
Mission Ridge, ... ''
Chickamauga Station, ... ''
Cleveland, ... Tenn.
Knoxville, ... ''
Rocky Face Ridge, ... Ga.
Ringold, ... ''
Buzzard's Roost, ... ''
Rome, ... ''
Snake Creek, ... ''

Burnt Hickory, ... Ga.
Dallas, ... ''
Resaka, ... ''
Big Shanty, ... ''
Kenesaw Mountain, ... ''
Peach Tree Creek, ... ''
Atlanta, ... ''
Jonesboro, ... ''
March to the Sea, ... ''
Savannah, ... ''
Averysboro, ... N. C.
Bentonville, ... ''
Rolla, ... ''

1861 to 1865.

T. A. JONES, *Sec. and Treas.*

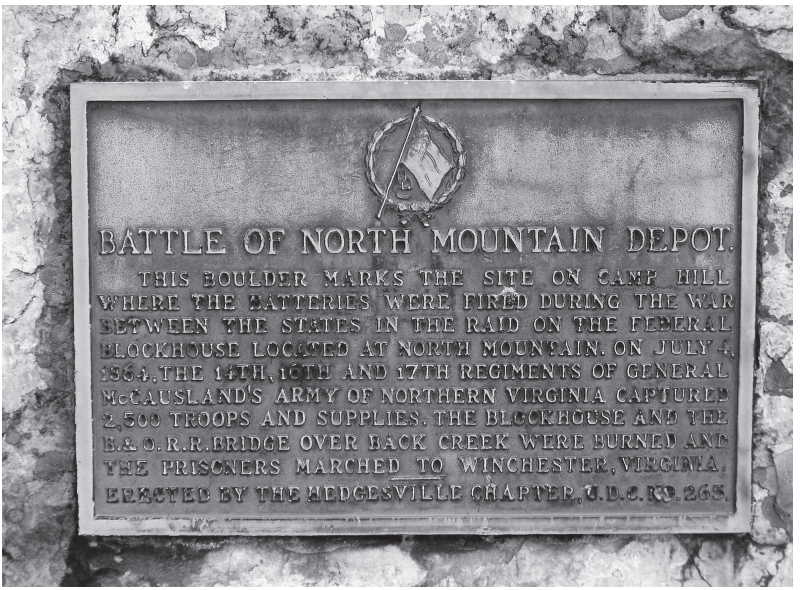
Granville, O., _____ *190*

A postwar record of battles that Company D, 113th OVI participated in. Thomas Jones, a local of Welsh extraction, served as an officer of the veteran's group.

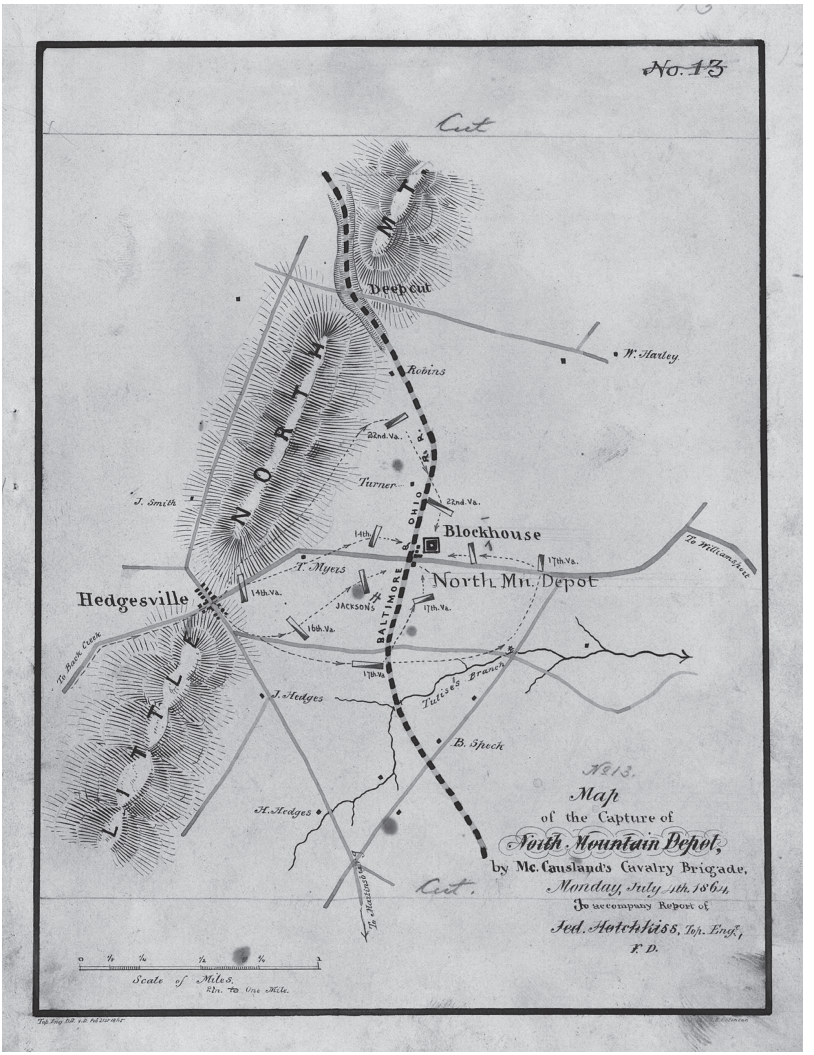
Grant in Virginia, the army called for the mobilization of a large number of these national guardsmen for a term of one hundred days. They were designed to carry out supposedly "safe duties" of guarding rail lines, bridges, depots and rear area forts, thereby relieving regular troops from this duty. Over seven hundred Licking Countians, including 36 from Granville, were formed along with two companies from Hardin County into the 135th OVI.

After being mobilized at nearby Camp Chase in Columbus, the regiment was sent by train to Martinsburg, West Virginia and vicinity where it was assigned the mission of guarding a critical stretch of the B&O Railroad. At first their tour of duty was uneventful with the monotony of guard detail, searching for isolated guerillas, and providing supply train escorts filling their days. In July, 1864, however, they found themselves squarely in the path of a surprise invasion by a large Confederate force led by General Jubal Early up

the Shenandoah Valley to threaten Washington D.C. On July 4, 1864, a detachment of 155 Licking County men from the 135th OVI were captured after a brief battle at North Mountain Depot by an overwhelming Confederate force. Forced by their captors to immediately march 28 miles through the full heat of a Virginia summer sun to Winchester, several of the men gave out and died of illness or exhaustion. From there they were shipped by rail—most of the enlisted men to the notorious Andersonville prison, the officers to a POW camp at Florence, South Carolina. Conditions were extremely severe at both locations, but more so at Andersonville. The men suffered constant exposure to the weather, limited rations of poor food, non-existent sanitation, and a contaminated water supply. Under these conditions the Licking County men suffered terribly and of the 155 taken prisoner at North Mountain, only 67 survived to return to their homes. Of the twenty Granville men captured, half



Historical Marker near North Mountain Depot, West Virginia. Erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, this marker greatly exaggerates the magnitude of the Confederate victory, but the battle and its aftermath was certainly devastating for Licking County.



Official map of the action at North Mountain Depot, West Virginia, on July 3, 1864. Twenty men from the Granville community were captured in this battle. Only ten survived their POW experience.

perished in prison. The sheer number of deaths places this as the worst military tragedy ever to befall Licking County. One of the few survivors was Thomas Hayes, a farmer from the township. Several years after the war he returned to the site of Andersonville and carved a chunk of wood from the tumbled-down pine stockade. This souvenir is still in the possession of his descendants, the Whitehead family, a treasured reminder of the sacrifices made and incredible hardships endured.

Finally, mention should be made of the several dozen local men and Denison students who served as "Squirrel Hunters" in the late summer of 1862. Called out by Governor David Tod in response to a threatened Confederate attack on Cincinnati, hundreds of ordinary citizens from around the state grabbed their hunting rifles and made their way to man the fortifications across the Ohio River in northern Kentucky. Nicknamed the Squirrel Hunters, these erstwhile "minutemen" were issued a colorful discharge certificate and sent home once the immediate danger had passed. George Stevens and Henry Sinnett led the local contingent of this colorful band of militia. Denison freshman Judson Harmon also participated.

In addition to the hundreds of local men who donned the Union blue, the Granville area also was home to several men who made contributions on the national level. Their stories form the next several sections of this book.

Major General Charles Griffin

Born in Granville on December 18, 1825, Charles Griffin's family was among the original wave of settlers in 1805. His grandfather Joab Griffin hailed from Granby, Connecticut and was responsible for laying out the original plats of the village and assigning these lots. Griffin's father, Apollos Griffin, was a noted merchant, operating a general store with Lucius Mower until selling his interest and starting a farm on the Worthington Road. The homestead (now the Neff residence) where Charles Griffin spent his boyhood still stands adjacent to The Raccoon International golf course.

Major General Charles Griffin was the Granville native who achieved the greatest national prominence during the Civil War.

Charles Griffin attended the primary, preparatory, and collegiate departments of Granville College (now Denison) and in 1843 was nominated to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Graduating in 1847, he saw limited action in the Mexican War and then spent a number of years campaigning against the Indians in New Mexico. The outbreak of the Civil War found him at West Point as an artillery instructor. He then organized a battery from the guns and men utilized to train the cadets. Recognized as one of the best-trained artillery units, Griffin's "West Point Battery" accompanied

the Union Army at the Battle of Bull Run. It was here that Griffin first came to national attention. Positioned on Henry Hill, Griffin and another battery were the linchpin of the Union line. At a critical stage of the battle, a large enemy formation emerged from nearby woods and was observed rapidly advancing on Griffin's position. As he prepared his guns to discharge a lethal blast of canister a Union general rode up and countermanded the order, claiming that the advancing troops were friendly troops coming to support Griffin. Despite protests to the contrary from Griffin, the order stood. Moments later the Confederate troops from Stonewall Jackson's brigade discharged a deadly volley into Griffin's battery, killing and wounding the great majority and driving off the rest. With this, the Confederates began rolling up the Union line, capturing both batteries and the critical Henry Hill position. With the momentum thus changed, what appeared to be a certain Confederate defeat became a stunning victory. It is interesting to speculate how the course of the battle and perhaps the entire war could have been changed had the sound judgment of this young officer from Granville been followed.

After the disaster of First Bull Run, Griffin made his way back to Washington, D.C., with the routed Union army. A Board of Inquiry quickly exonerated him of any blame and he was recognized as one of the few Union officers to come out of the battle with any credit to his military reputation. Griffin's accomplishments on the battlefield were equally matched by his conquests in the social field. After Bull Run, in a whirlwind romance, he courted and then married Sallie Carroll, the eldest daughter of one of the country's most distinguished and powerful families. A family that claimed a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a former Governor of Maryland, and diplomats, the Carrolls were considered one of the preeminent social and political families of Maryland. With a father who was the clerk to the U.S. Supreme Court and a brother, Samuel Carroll, who was a Union general, Griffin's marriage to Sallie Carroll could not but help his military advancement. The wedding was considered by many to be the social event of the year in the capitol as the President and Mrs. Lincoln, cabinet members, and many ranking generals attended it.

The next few years saw Griffin participating in most of the major campaigns of the Army of the Potomac in Virginia. Rapidly advanced to the rank of Brigadier General, he saw action as a combat leader in the Peninsular Campaign, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and the Virginia Campaign of 1864. During the bitter engagements of the Wilderness and the Siege of Petersburg, Griffin repeatedly distinguished himself as a first-rate division commander, and it was his unit that was often looked to for help when disaster threatened. It was also during this time that he formed a close lifelong friendship with one of his regimental commanders, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, who is well known for his heroic defense of Little Round Top at Gettysburg.

Promoted to Major General, Griffin played a key role in the last acts of the dying war. During the key battle of Five Forks, he was put in command of the Fifth Corps following the controversial dismissal of Gen. Warren. In this role he aggressively pursued Lee's army through Virginia, finally intercepting and bringing the proud remnants of the famed Army of Northern Virginia to bay at a small village called Appomattox Court House. He personally witnessed the surrender meeting between Grant and Lee and was bestowed the honor by General Grant of being a Surrender Commissioner. As such he was responsible for arranging and accepting the formal surrender of Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.

After the conclusion of the war, Griffin, like most regular army officers, cast about for meaningful assignments. He was posted to command the District of Maine where he spent time with his good friend Chamberlain and sat on various armament boards. Like most regular officers, Griffin was reduced in rank to Colonel in the smaller post-war Army. Bored with the lack of challenges and the Washington social scene, Griffin gladly jumped at an opportunity for adventure and headed to the Rio Grande frontier to report on the French intervention in Mexico. In July, 1866 he was given command of the 35th U.S. Infantry, one of the occupation regiments assigned to Texas. En route, he was designated commander of the Military District of Texas.

When Griffin arrived on the Texas scene, he found the federal Reconstruction program in shambles. Texas and the other ex-Confederate states were still in the midst of post-Civil war occupation while the federal government debated their status within the reconstituted Union. While there was a popularly elected civil government, the military district commander was the ultimate authority within these states. Not surprisingly, ex-rebels were loath to submit to the Reconstruction, which afforded many civil rights protections to the newly freed slaves. To gain an appreciation for the problems Griffin faced: the governor was an ex-Confederate, the two U.S. Senators were uncompromising former rebels, and the state legislature had passed the notorious Black Codes, refused to consider the 13th Amendment, rejected the 14th Amendment outright, and proposed to organize a state militia composed of former Confederates. Blacks and Freedman's Bureau personnel were under constant harassment and in some cases were being injured and murdered. If that were not enough, Indian incursions required that most of the troops sent to restore federal authority were committed to frontier protection. Griffin, while not politically active, was a die-hard Union man. While it is unknown whether he personally agreed with the Reconstruction policies, as a professional soldier he was dedicated to following orders. It was this tough and reliable quality that led U.S. Grant and Gen. Philip Sheridan to select him for this difficult post.

Griffin immediately set to work. In those communities where blacks and loyal Union citizens were harassed and intimidated, soldiers were sent out to restore order and assist Freedmen's Bureau officers with their work. Griffin oversaw an aggressive effort to register newly eligible black voters and to protect the registrars, a number of whom had been murdered prior to his arrival. Griffin also issued a public accommodations law that was among the first in the nation to forbid discrimination based upon race. Griffin also took an interest in the number of blacks incarcerated in Texas jails, particularly in the state penitentiary. He recommended that many prisoners be released because they were serving time for crimes that would have called for a whipping during the slavery period. He also publicly stated his belief that these prisoners were unfairly convicted

because Texas courts excluded blacks from testifying and from serving on juries.

As might be expected, the Texas civil authorities were outraged at these ideas and attempted to impede and backslide at every opportunity. Undeterred, Griffin further issued an order allowing any military commander to take any case involving a black citizen out of civil or criminal court and send it to him for review. He then required that all potential jurors take an "ironclad oath" before serving that included a provision that one had never aided the Confederacy. This effectively limited jurors to blacks and pro-Union whites. He also authorized voting registrars to exclude any citizen who had latent Confederate sympathies. This was far and away the most aggressive implementation of Reconstruction policies and raised serious issues of military abridgement of civil government. The result was a vehement protest by the Governor that went all the way to Washington and involved the commanding general of the army, U.S. Grant. Grant finally ruled that Griffin was perhaps overzealous, and a number of his reforms were rolled back. Griffin responded in kind and compiled sufficient evidence that the rise in crime and defiance of federal government was directly attributable to the "disloyal Governor and his civil officeholders." Citing the argument that "there is little security for those in Texas who love the government when the laws are executed by those who hate the government," Griffin obtained permission to remove the Governor and a number of other judges and officials, replacing them with loyal Union men.

Suddenly, when Griffin appeared to be gaining the upper hand, a yellow fever epidemic swept up the Texas coast from Mexico. Attention turned to fighting the dreaded disease that was killing thousands in the coastal areas and providing supplies to afflicted areas. With his headquarters in Galveston, one of the worst hit spots, Griffin was tireless in his efforts to combat the disease and bring in needed military physicians and medical supplies. Army authorities recommended that he move himself and his family away until the epidemic passed with the cooler weather. Griffin refused, likening his leaving to abandoning a post during battle. Tragically, Griffin's family contracted the disease. His five-year-old son Charles C. Griffin died on September

5th (his only other child, William, had died in infancy in 1864). Griffin himself contracted the dreaded fever several days later and died on September 15, 1867, at the age of 41. He is buried in the Carroll Family mausoleum at Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Proud, brave, and at times abrasive, Charles Griffin certainly charted a path in American history that is unequalled by any other individual who called Granville home. A ramrod-stiff professional of exceptional ability, he made major contributions on the battlefield and has been acknowledged by several Civil War scholars as the best division commander in the Union army. Although a soldier by profession, he also demonstrated great zeal and ability in restoring the rule of law and implementing civil rights for the newly freed blacks in post-war Texas at a time when it was politically unpopular to do so.

Major General (Bvt.) Erastus B. Tyler

Although not a Granville native, Erastus Tyler deserves mention as he was a graduate of Granville College. Born in West Bloomfield, New York, in April, 1822, his family moved to Ravenna, Ohio, several years later. He appears to have attended school in Granville during the period of 1838–1842, after which he returned home to engage in the fur trade. By the time of the Civil War he was a successful businessman who was also active in the Ohio militia. He assisted in the recruiting of the 7th OVI and was elected colonel in a bitter contest over James Garfield (later the twentieth President).

Major General (Bvt.) Erastus B. Tyler attended school in Granville before the war and later played a vital role in defending Washington, D.C. from a Confederate assault.

Tyler and the 7th OVI participated in the early campaign to wrest western Virginia from Confederate control. Surprised and defeated in a small engagement at

Kessler's Cross Roads, he recovered his reputation at the victory at Carnifax Ferry shortly thereafter. In early 1862 he was promoted to Brigadier General and played a key role in defeating Stonewall Jackson at the Battle of Kernstown, one of the few Union leaders ever to claim this distinction. Several months later he again faced Jackson on the field of battle at Port Republic, Virginia. Although outnumbered better than four to one, his small brigade tenaciously held their position for the better part of the day awaiting reinforcements. With the hopes of the Union troops flagging, the Confederates' final assault upon a key artillery position turned the tide, and Tyler's game-but-outnumbered force withdrew. He subsequently led his brigade at Antietam and Fredericksburg. It was at this battle that he personally led the last Union assault upon the impregnable Sunken Road at the base of Marye's Heights. Felled by a serious head wound from a piece of shrapnel, he relinquished field command shortly thereafter and upon recovery was assigned as the commander of the military district of Baltimore.

In July, 1864 he unexpectedly was required to assume a field command in response to Confederate General Early's surprise advance on Washington D.C. Commanding a division of untried Ohio and Maryland National Guardsmen, he formed one wing of the makeshift army under Gen. Lew Wallace near Frederick, Maryland. At the Battle of the Monacacy on July 9th, Tyler handled his green troops skillfully, keeping open the eventual retreat route for the Union forces. Termed the "battle that saved Washington," this action delayed Confederate forces long enough to provide the necessary time for regular army troops from Grant's army to reach and man the defenses of the nation's capitol. Upon finding the capitol city heavily defended, Early withdrew his forces, ending the last Confederate invasion of the North. Brevetted Major General at war's end, Tyler was appointed Postmaster of Baltimore shortly after leaving the army and served in that capacity until he was removed from office by President James Garfield in 1881. He died in Baltimore in 1891. Although not a professional soldier by trade, he became a competent field commander with a reputation for pugnacity and aggressiveness on the battlefield.

Brigadier General Willard Warner

Born in Granville in 1826, Willard Warner attended Marietta College and married the sister of the noted Woods brothers of Newark. Like a number of young men from the area, he became a 49er and tried his hand at prospecting during the California Gold Rush. Joining the 76th OVI with the rank of Major, he commanded the regiment during the battles around Chattanooga and Ringgold Gap. Promoted shortly thereafter to Lieutenant Colonel he served for a period on the personal staff of General Sherman. In October 1864 he was promoted Colonel of the newly formed 180th OVI and saw considerable combat in the Carolina Campaign, and was brevetted Brigadier General prior to mustering out. Upon returning home he served for two years in the Ohio Senate before moving to Alabama in 1867. He was elected U.S. Senator from that state and served from 1868–1871. He then declined President Grant's offer to serve as the Territorial Governor of New Mexico and became a leading industrialist as president of the Tecumseh Iron Company. Upon his death in 1906 his remains were returned to Ohio and interred in the Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Brigadier General Willard Warner, with ties to Newark, Ohio, also served in the Ohio Senate and the U.S. Senate.

Brigadier General William Steadman

Brigadier General William Steadman, born in Granville, had a reputation for hard fighting, hard drinking, and hard swearing.

Less well known was William Steadman (also sometimes listed as Stedman), born in Granville on November 26, 1815. His father was a noted local builder and brick maker. A merchant and farmer by trade, William Steadman later moved to Portage County, Ohio. He began the war as a Lieutenant in the 6th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry and rose in rank to become the Colonel of the regiment. Seeing active service first in West Virginia and then later with the Army of the Potomac, Steadman led his unit through most of the major battles of the Eastern Theater from Second Bull Run to the siege of Petersburg. Known as a "hard fighter, hard drinking and hard swearing," he was aptly fitted for strenuous field command. He mustered out in October 1864 at the expiration of his term of service, and was later brevetted Brigadier General for his battlefield gallantry. After the war he was appointed as U.S. Consul to Cuba, a post that he held until his untimely death in 1869.

Thomas D. Jones

Although his achievements were in the field of arts and not the battlefield, the works of sculptor Thomas D. Jones helped memorialize many of the key national figures and incidents of the Civil War period. Born in New York in 1811, Jones and his family migrated to the Welsh Hills northeast of Granville in 1837. Although his father took up farming, he was a stonemason by trade and young Jones picked up the rudiments of this skill from him. Not finding farming to his liking, in 1839 he took a job as a stonemason cutting and

dressing stones for the Ohio Canal. In late 1841 he went to Cincinnati and learned the trade of marble cutting, experimenting with sculpting during his spare hours. By 1842 he had engaged in sculpting as a full time profession, rapidly establishing an enviable reputation as one of the premier sculptors of busts of prominent figures and monuments. Among his more noted works were ones of Gen. Zachary Taylor, Henry Clay, and Gov. Salmon Chase. In 1860, while working in nearby Columbus, he was commissioned to sculpt a bust of President-elect Lincoln. Travelling to Lincoln's home in Springfield, Illinois, he was granted access to Lincoln and created a marble bust that even Lincoln admitted was a remarkable likeness.

After the war Jones was hired by Gov. Rutherford B. Hayes to sculpt a marble relief monument depicting the surrender of Vicksburg to Union forces to honor the service rendered by many of the state's sons. The work of Carrera marble was unveiled in 1871 and made part of a permanent display in the Statehouse Rotunda. Although it received critical acclaim, it appears that Jones took artistic liberties by placing historic Ohio figures such as Generals William T. Sherman and Phil Sheridan in the surrender depiction when they were not

Thomas D. Jones (left) was a sculptor who lived northeast of Granville in the 1830s. His 1861 bust of Abraham Lincoln (right) can be seen in the rotunda of the Ohio Statehouse.

actually present. A featured attraction of Statehouse tours, the work was dismantled in the 1950s and placed in storage. In the late 1990s, however, most of the work was again discovered and carefully restored in the Rotunda where it is still available for viewing along with the bust of Lincoln. Despite his national recognition as a sculptor and his association with the leading national personalities, Jones was a notorious spendthrift and died penniless in Philadelphia in 1881. His body was returned to be buried at the Welsh Hills Cemetery where his tombstone is an impressive native glacial boulder personally selected by him.

The Home Front

On the surface, life went on in Granville much as it had before the war. Closer examination reveals, though, that just as the war had a profound impact upon those serving as soldiers in the field, so also it affected the men and women left at home. Throughout the war there was the problem of how to provide aid and support for the local men in the army, especially those who were sick or wounded. There was also the practical problem of filling in for those who were away, a real problem in a largely rural society based on the small family farm. Further, although the Granville area was strongly behind the war effort, there was a sizeable minority of Peace Democrats and Copperheads that opposed the war and created tensions within the community. Finally, there was the almost fatal impact of the war upon the still fledgling Denison University.

The Soldiers' Aid Society

As the war wound into its first winter, letters from the soldiers outlined their difficult living conditions and the shortages that were being experienced. Thus prompted, the women of Granville enthusiastically responded in early 1862 to the formation of a local chapter of the Soldier's Aid Society. Similar to the Red Cross in wartime, the

purpose of this organization was to furnish the soldiers with articles of comfort, medical supplies, foodstuffs, and personal items of clothing that the Union Army seemed initially unable to provide. These were acquired by voluntary contributions of money, material, and labor.

At its organizational meeting Mrs. William Bancroft was chosen as president and Miss Jane Sinnett as secretary. Consisting of about forty local women, the Granville chapter was open to women who would pledge to work at least three hours every two weeks. Within a few days these industrious women had packed and shipped several boxes of hospital goods and dried fruits to be distributed to their soldiers. This effort continued up through the end of the war with records reflecting their shipment in April 1865 of twelve shirts, fifteen pairs of drawers, seventeen pounds of castile soap, 39 pairs of socks, 22 handkerchiefs, five bottles of Bay rum, one bottle of bitters, ten pounds of butter crackers, two barrels of pickles, one barrel of kraut, twenty barrels of potatoes, one barrel of turnips, and one barrel of parsnips.

The women usually met in church parlors or in the homes of members. Activities consisted of rolling bandages, packing lint for surgical use, packaging goods, and making items of clothing. The Society would also occasionally host civic suppers and other social events for the purpose of raising money for its purchases, thereby enlivening the social scene while aiding the troops. Those members with men in the service also endeavored to encourage the morale of their men through their letters. Writing from the field in Georgia, one soldier remarked:

> Your letters have given me more real pleasure during the toils of this terrible campaign than anything else. On the battlefield, on the march, when sick or worn down, they have come to cheer my drooping spirits.

When a Granville soldier stationed at Martinsburg, West Virginia, received two letters from his wife he was so happy "That he cried and shouted as a child." In a letter back home that was wisely posted to his brother rather than his wife, the same soldier complained that his

military duties in Martinsburg caused him to have to pull guard duty every other day: "[T]he reason of it is because there are so many horehouses (*sic*) in town which must have a sentinel at each door for to keep them straight."

Although the scope of their participation was limited by law and custom, Granville women played a critical role in not only supporting the Union war effort, but in many cases also maintaining the family farm or business and in raising families during their husbands' absence.

Peace Democrats and Copperheads

The war had significant impact upon the local political scene. Despite the impression created of a populace unified in its desire to save the Union and abolish the institution of slavery, the reality was different. While a large majority of the village and township solidly backed the Lincoln Administration and its war efforts, there existed a vocal minority who were adamantly opposed to the war. Those who were Republican almost universally supported the war effort while the Democratic Party was deeply divided between "War Democrats" and "Peace Democrats." Among the latter, many genuinely found the idea of civil war abhorrent and favored mediation or even a peaceful separation of the states. The preemptory actions of the Lincoln administration to suspend *habeas corpus* and other civil rights only increased the concern of Peace Democrats with the direction the country was taking and hardened their opposition. This was only exacerbated by the imposition of a draft and the initiation of the inequitable substitute policy wherein an individual of sufficient wealth could pay another individual to take his place in the event he was drafted. This led to the not uncommon refrain of "it's a rich man's war and a poor man's fight." Political partisanship and a refusal to accept the results of the 1860 election motivated the anti-war stance taken by others. Although being a Peace Democrat did not necessarily equate to being pro-Confederacy, their constant criticisms of Lincoln and the measures that were taken to successfully prosecute the war did serve to encourage the South to prolong the conflict in hope that

the North would tire of the effort and that the Peace Democrats would prevail in the 1864 elections. Their strength in the local area is reflected in the returns from that election with Lincoln handily winning Granville Township 321 to 98, but losing Licking County to Gen. George McClellan who ran for president as a Peace Democrat.

Disaffection was most evident however, among the more extreme segment of the anti-war movement known as the "Copperheads." Named for a poisonous snake, they were Southern in their sympathies and engaged in fomenting dissension at home and within the troops at the front. Openly critical of the war, they often engaged in subversive activities designed to openly aid the Confederate cause. Whether this was motivated by an affinity for the South or by a warped sense of political partisanship is unclear, but they were a real source of concern to the government. As the war ground on, patience with the Copperheads began to wear thin, especially for those with family members serving in the Union Army. George Atkinson, a former Denison student and local farmer, wrote back from the front that the Copperheads had better beware "because their time was growing short" and that when they returned home the soldiers would "try a few military tactics on them."

There exists at least one written account of a Confederate recruiting officer covertly making his way into the Licking and Fairfield County areas where, assisted by local Copperheads, he obtained funds and prospective recruits for the Confederate Army. There were also persistent rumors of other plots and conspiracies of this disaffected group, the most notable being the Lake Erie conspiracy of 1864 where Ohio Copperheads were to materially assist in the hijacking of ships and to free the Confederate POWs at Johnson's Island outside of Sandusky. The extent and number of the Copperhead movement in the Granville area is unknown but its existence is an unpleasant footnote to Granville history of this period.

There is also one confirmed Granville native who wore the gray and fought for the South. Ironically, this was William Griffin, the younger brother of Major General Charles Griffin. He had moved to Florida in 1852, married locally, and become a prominent rancher.

With the outbreak of the conflict, he assumed allegiance to his adopted home. The unit to which William belonged only saw action in the Florida area so the brothers never met on the battlefield, nor is there any evidence to suggest that General Griffin was even aware of his younger sibling's Confederate affiliation.

Denison University and the War

The war critically disrupted the educational institutions located in the community. It especially proved to be a time of severe trial for the university on the hill. Under the leadership of the Reverend Jeremiah Hall, Denison had made considerable progress by the time the Civil War began. Overseeing the successful move of the college to its present location, constantly scratching for funds and resisting pressure to move the school to northern Ohio, Hall's stewardship had allowed Denison to avert a number of crises that could have doomed the college. Much of this progress was to be undone by the onset of war.

Members of the Denison Class of 1869 plant a "class tree" on the campus. Most of these students saw military service during the war.

As noted, the young men enrolled in the various scholastic programs responded enthusiastically to President Lincoln's call for volunteers after Ft. Sumter was fired upon. The war seemed to affect everybody and everything on the fledgling campus. Enlistments and the stress of war on families worked to significantly reduce attendance. During the academic year ending in 1860 the school consisted of eight faculty members, 73 college students, and 116 boys in the preparatory department. By the end of the first year of the war, the total enrollment had dropped to 106 and by 1863 to 89 students.

In order to remain financially solvent, the faculty reluctantly accepted a fifteen-percent salary reduction. In 1863, the low point of the university's fortunes, Rev. Hall submitted his resignation as President, exhausted by the seemingly hopeless task of maintaining Denison as a viable institution. The trustees were convened in emergency session to determine "Whether to continue or suspend instruction in the University during the coming year in consequence of the deranged state of the country and the embarrassed state of finances of the University." Additionally, the University was deadlocked in litigation with William Denison over his promised donation in honor of which the University took his name. Alleging that the school had not complied with the full terms of the endowment gift, he withheld the funds. While the matter was later favorably resolved the incident was indicative of the troubled time the school faced.

Somehow instruction was maintained but only through significant sacrifices by the faculty members and staff. The selection of a Denison alumnus, Rev. Samson Talbot, as President in summer 1863 proved to be fortunate. He immediately devoted his considerable energies to a series of successful fund-raising campaigns. Assisted by wealthy industrialists Ebenezer Thresher and Eliam Barney, a $100,000 endowment was funded and a firm commitment from the school's alumni to endow professorships and provide future financial support was put in place. It should be noted that tuition and fees, while necessary for financial survival of the school, were not that extravagant. In many respects Denison was still a "working school" where the students routinely engaged in work to help offset the low tuition and board. The students were boarded at the "Old Frame," the

original building of the Granville College that had been disassembled and relocated at the new location on the hill.

Perhaps the best firsthand description of campus life during those Civil War years was provided by one of Denison's most notable graduates, Judson Harmon, Class of 1866. Later the Governor of Ohio, U.S. Attorney General, and a leading contender for the 1912 Democratic Presidential nomination, he submitted the following recollection to the staff of the *Adytum*, a university publication, in 1900:

> A request for reminiscences carries pardons in advance for a certain amount of self-mention. No pardon will be needed for self-conceit. It costs an effort to identify myself with the boy who bore my name in college. Was I really ever like that?
>
> I first saw Granville on a late September day in 1862. College had already opened and I was the only passenger from Union. I was only sixteen, and had the usual sensations in such cases, but the situation was in some ways peculiar. Enlistments had so reduced attendance that it was almost a distinction to be a new student qualified in every sense as a Freshman. There was not much left of any class except the Senior. Even the "Preps" were sadly reduced in number and variety.
>
> My four years were the years of famine in a college which had never known plenty, but the first was much leaner than the others. After that the students began to multiply somewhat. Some came from the army. Others were sent, as I had been, to keep them out of it. Many who put off the uniform did credit to the gown. Some showed touches of camp manners and morals to the astonishment and dismay of the staid little town, the faculty and the candidates for the pulpit who were always the dominant if not the largest element.
>
> The students were pretty well divided between the good set and the wild set. I believe I was never acknowledged as a member in good standing of either though on terms of partial comradeship with both. This, on the whole, was rather an advantage. A college is the world in miniature and it is well for one who is to

deal with all sorts of people to begin early. If the good were no better because of me, the bad were no worse.

If I gained any distinction, save perhaps some little in the debates and other doings of my literary society, it was, I fear, in things not mentioned in the curriculum. I have never been proud of this circumstance of my college life, but may fairly say it was due partly to the exuberance of youth and partly to the rebound from the awful solemnity which then prevailed in Granville. However it may be now, most of the theologues of those days took themselves, and others also, much too seriously.

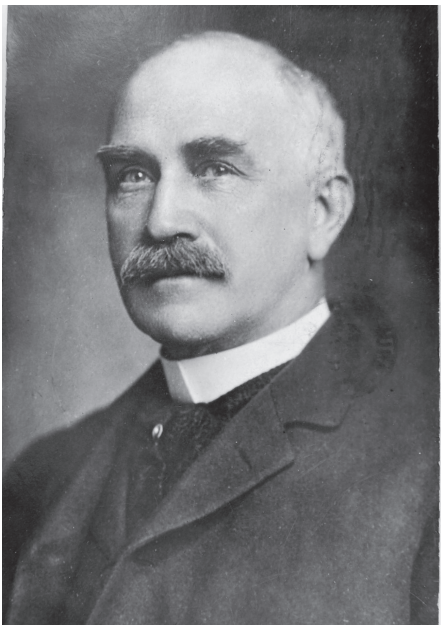
It is impossible to disconnect the war from the memories of my college days. It affected everybody and everything. Those who were poor, and most of us were, felt the pinch of it. We wore shawls because overcoats were too dear. We boarded ourselves, many of us, part or all of the time in the Old Frame. We chopped wood in the winter vacation, worked in the fields in the summer, and taught country schools when we could do it and kept up with our studies too. Now and then someone was drafted. Letters from home were never opened without the fear that they might bring tidings of illness, wounds or death.

Almost the entire war occurred during that period as well as its close when sorrow followed so close behind joy. My first really public speech was made from a dry goods box in front of Parson's store when the news came of Lee's surrender. Not many days later I was looking at the dead face of Mr. Lincoln in the Capitol at Columbus. I wish I could forget an incident which will seem incredible to many but gives a glimpse of those times. I heard one of our best known Doctors of Divinity in an address in the Presbyterian Church, maintain in his powerful way, that God in his Providence had removed Mr. Lincoln lest his great heart temper or turn aside the just wrath of the people toward the rebels. He swung the Old Testament like a headman's axe. He is dead now and, I am sure, repented of that speech.

Secession, slavery, emancipation and reconstruction largely furnished our themes and subjects. Those of later years have all been cold by comparison in spite of all our hammering. These were right from the fiery furnace and how the sparks flew! What

> speakers and debaters some of ours were, especially the Welsh boys! I take no chances with a Welshman to this day.
>
> Nor was it Mars who ruled on Olympus while I studied French at the "Upper Sem" alone in a class of girls. Afterward, in place of a disabled teacher, I tried to impart geometry there. If it had not been for their bright eyes I should know more French and the girls more mathematics. I hope they prefer the ignorance as I do.
>
> This going back to college days, now getting to be long ago, is like rummaging about in a garret. Many half forgotten things appear, each with its cluster of associations … But I have already exceeded your request, which was not for a complete student autobiography. When I review all that comes back to me now that memory has become active—the advantages I had in teachers, associates, opportunities and surroundings, with home training to prepare them for me, I wonder whether after all, that boy who bore my name in college may not retort with a question of identity, Had the boy not a right to expect more of the man?

While one of Denison's most successful graduates, Harmon also appears to have been one of its most colorful. Left unmentioned in his account was that instead of reporting for classes at Denison, he had slipped away to join the Squirrel Hunter militia to defend his hometown of Cincinnati in early September 1862. His preacher father took a dim view of his sixteen-year-old son's decision and, after locating him in the military camps, personally escorted him back to school. Harmon also drew notice at the end of his stay at Denison, initially being denied graduation for an alleged criticism of one of the faculty. The student body was outraged at this action against the popular Harmon and became very vocal in their protests. Whether to avoid the ire of the ex-veteran students or because of the merits, it was decided to graduate Judson Harmon in a separate ceremony the following day. To ensure full honors the student body (and the student band) stayed over to attend the ceremony.



Judson Harmon, Class of 1866, is one of Denison's most colorful and accomplished graduates. A two-term governor of Ohio and U.S. Attorney General, he was a leading contender for the 1912 Democratic nomination for President. His start at the college was marked by his absconding to join the "Squirrel Hunters" to fight encroaching Confederate forces. A gifted athlete, Harmon also played a key role in organizing the first sports teams at Denison, including a four-team intramural baseball league.

In addition to Generals Griffin and Tyler, Denison students and alumni made a notable contribution to the war effort. Although the number of students who left school to serve is not recorded, a review of alumni records reveals that no fewer than 37 Denison graduates fought for the Union in the Civil War. Several did not survive the conflict, the most noted being Henry Knoop. During the tumultuous first year of the war he organized military drills on the campus and led a small band of students to enlist in October 1861. He rose through the ranks and was commissioned a Lieutenant in the 62nd OVI. On July 10, 1863 he was killed in action while leading an assault upon Ft. Wagner, South Carolina (later made famous in the movie *Glory*). Thomas J. Sheppard, who attended Denison after the war, gained fame not through martial exploits but through his humanitarian efforts. Captured at Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia, he was sent to the infamous Andersonville POW camp. Motivated by the widespread suffering, he conducted religious services, and ministered

Thomas J. Sheppard, the "Andersonville Chaplain," is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Granville.

to the sick and dying so tirelessly that he became known as the "Andersonville Chaplain." After the war, legislation was introduced in Congress to recognize his services and confer the rank of Chaplain upon him. After graduating from Denison he became a Baptist minister and later served as a business agent for his alma mater; he also published *What I Saw at Andersonville*, a book of lectures about his experiences during the war.

Another noteworthy graduate was Thomas B. Van Horne '47 who served as the regimental chaplain for the 123rd OVI. He was responsible for the layout of the National Cemeteries at Chattanooga and Marietta, Georgia. Brigadier General Jefferson Brumback '52 was another Denison graduate who made his mark on the battlefield; after the war he became a long-serving judge in Licking County. Nor was military participation limited to the Union side, for the same records reflect that a number of Southern-born alumni donned the gray and fought for the Confederacy. The contribution of those

several graduates who through the Freedman's Bureau sought to better the education and plight of the newly freed slaves during and after the war should also not be forgotten.

With the end of the war Denison made a speedy recovery as young men returned from the battlefields to the campus to resume their lives. This included a number of ex-Confederates although it does not appear that this was the cause of any discord. As noted by William Avery, a student who resumed his studies after his military service, "[T]he public feeling was so immense at the relief of peace restored and Union preserved that no one, even the soldiers cared to talk about the war. For 5 to 6 years afterward everyone was eager to work to repair the damages of war to the country."

Mention should also be made of the various female schools that existed within the village. After acquiring the Granville Female Seminary, the Episcopal Female Seminary continued its operations until 1861 when it moved to Mansfield. Its location was on the north side of Broadway between Cherry and Plum Streets. In 1859 initial steps were undertaken to start a Baptist school for women. From a modest beginning in the basement of the Baptist church, the Young Ladies Institute, as it was called, expanded in 1861 with the purchase of the now vacant Female Seminary buildings. The Granville Female Academy still continued its mission and was widely recognized as one of the leading institutions for females in the Midwest. Having long since outgrown the current Old Academy Building Grange Hall, it was located in a series of buildings currently occupied by the site of the Granville Inn. Its most famous graduate, Mary Catherwood, attended the Academy during the Civil War period. Largely forgotten today, Catherwood was a prolific author, with over thirty published books. Originally from nearby Luray, she taught school when she was only thirteen. After graduating from the Female Academy, she became one of the first women to support herself by writing, being a frequent contributor to the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Harpers Magazine*, and *Lippincotts*. Her books of historical fiction became extremely popular in the late 1800s but she is best known for her incisive portrayal of the complexities of small town life in Ohio.

Changes in the Village

Despite the war, the ebb and flow of life continued within the Granville community. The presence of the schools and student population ensured that a fairly vibrant program of social activities, diversions, concerts and special events served the double purpose of raising money for the soldiers and distracting from the constant sorrows and tribulations of the conflict. A steady calendar of weddings, dances, playing card parties, corn shucking, quilting parties, debate forums, and musical performances helped to enliven the local scene. Small businesses and merchants continued to prosper and the village landscape continued to change with the construction of new buildings for the Granville Female Academy and improvements for the Young Ladies Institute. A new cemetery called Maple Grove was opened in 1863 and quickly replaced the Old Colony Burying Ground as the final resting place for local citizens. The winter of 1863 was noted as being particularly bitter with two men freezing to death from overexposure. Word of Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in early July 1863 brought an added degree of joy to Union supporters, followed shortly thereafter by the alarming news that General John Hunt Morgan and his Confederate cavalry had invaded Ohio, looting and wreaking destruction on anything in their path. No one could state with certainty where Morgan's Raiders (as they were popularly known) were headed or would strike next. Although they never came closer than forty miles to Granville, considerable excitement and apprehension were created until Morgan's capture on July 26th near Cadiz, Ohio.

Churches continued to be the focal point of the Granville community during the war. The predominant denominations at this time were the Congregationalists (which later evolved into the Presbyterians), Baptists, Episcopalians, and to a lesser extent, the Methodists. Their location on the four corners of the village square was symbolic of their central role in the community. The Welsh populace attended their own Baptist and Methodist churches, which conducted services in Welsh. To the extent that Roman Catholics

resided in the community, they apparently kept a low profile given the level of animosity that existed at that time towards that denomination.

As the local clergy were the recognized moral and intellectual leaders, people naturally looked to them for political as well as spiritual guidance when war appeared on the horizon. Given Granville's reputation as an abolitionist town, it is not surprising that local clergy strongly supported the effort to stamp out the rebellion and forcibly impose emancipation. Willing to use their pulpits to promote the Union cause though their sermons, they bolstered public support for the war by condemning deserters and providing prayers and benedictions to those departing for the war, thereby conferring the image of a crusade. Illustrative was the message of Dr. N. S. Burton, pastor of the Baptist Church, during the farewell ceremony for Company D, 113th OVI. At the close of the ceremony he proclaimed: "And now soldiers, I send you forth with the Church's benediction. . . . Your cause is just. Who can doubt the issue if you will but keep the Lord on your side?"

Prayer meetings and special services were frequent in the local churches. Large numbers of the community also observed the national day of fasting proclaimed by President Lincoln on April 30, 1863 and the national day of Thanksgiving that he proclaimed for the fourth Thursday of November of that year. This was the first national Thanksgiving holiday, which was to continue past the war, albeit with a decidedly different historical theme. The following year witnessed the departure of the village's foremost religious leader, Pastor Jacob Little. Long perceived as overly abrasive and ineffective with the more youthful members of his congregation, he was put on notice that his contract would not be renewed. After a final sermon in which his love of the Granville area and his sadness at leaving were eloquently expressed, he departed for the West in November 1864 after casting his vote for Lincoln at the local polling place.

All of Granville was doubtless relieved when the war finally ended. The news of Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia on April 9, 1865, produced the peals of all of the church bells in the village. With the news almost immediately transmitted thanks

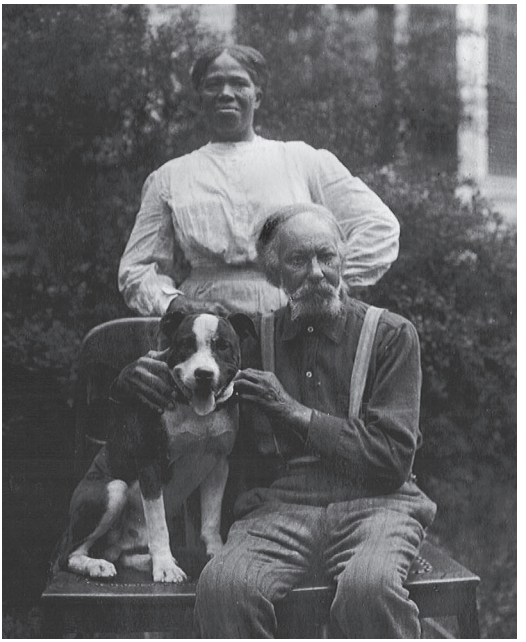
to the telegraph, local citizens from the village and township joined students from the various schools in thronging about the village center. Windows were illuminated, and bonfires and fireworks helped light the evening sky. Impromptu speeches such as that given by the young Judson Harmon helped to stimulate the celebratory spirit as much as the freely circulated alcohol did. A number of exuberant young men took the antiquated village cannon out of its storage at the village hall and prepared to fire it as part of the celebration. Manufactured by the Granville Furnace in 1825, it had traditionally been fired every Fourth of July celebration since then. Mayor S.B. Hamblen intervened and, believing the cannon to be unsafe, ordered that any discharge must occur outside of village limits. They then executed the arduous task of hauling the cannon by hand to the top of Prospect Hill where they fired off a few loud charges to salute the war's end. Seeking to gain some small measure of revenge against the Mayor, later that night they hauled the piece and placed it directly in front of his house. Using a blank charge they discharged the old cannon causing not only a loud blast, but also the shattering of a

Their wartime experiences bonded Granville veterans together during the postwar years. Here, Granville-area Civil War veterans are pictured in front of St. Luke's Episcopal Church at a reunion in 1910.

number of windows in the Mayor's House. A number of the culprits were arrested and fined for their prank and Mayor Hamblen was authorized a $23.00 reimbursement by the Village Council.

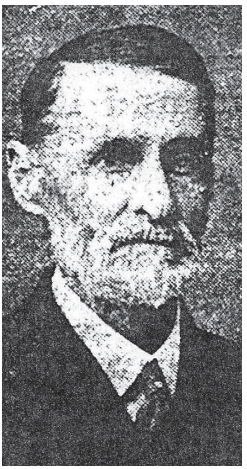
Six days later, on April 15, the joyous news of the war's end was superseded with the tragic news of Lincoln's assassination at Ford's Theater in Washington. Buildings throughout the village were draped in black and the church bells tolled from ten a.m. until noon as most residents gathered in their churches to mourn the great leader's passing. When Lincoln's body rested in the State Capitol at Columbus later that month, a number of local citizens made the trip to pay their last respects.

With the passage of time the memory and excitement of the Civil War and the events leading up to it faded away. Still, the presence of aging veterans and other tangible reminders of this crucial period of history lived on well into the twentieth century. Granville was home to one of the last surviving slaves, Edna Jackson, who for years worked as the Housemother for the Sigma Chi Fraternity at Denison.



Edna Jackson ("Aunty Jack") was an ex-slave who became a well-loved figure at Denison and in Granville. Her husband Samuel fought for the Union in the 5th U.S. Colored Troops.

Affectionately known as "Aunty Jack," she was born into slavery at Harrodsburg, Kentucky in 1851. With her freedom she became a refugee and while still a teenager stopped in Granville, never to leave. As the Housemother she helped care for and guide several generations of "her boys" and was deeply revered by both the Denison and Granville communities. Even after her retirement she was always an honored guest at the Denison Homecoming Banquet. Upon her death in October 1934, an overflow crowd attended her funeral and her pallbearers were a distinguished list of Sigma Chi alumni. Her grave marker at Maple Grove cemetery is accompanied by a bronze plaque erected by fraternity members citing Proverbs 31:28—"Her children rise up and call her blessed."



Albert Norris was Granville's last surviving Civil War veteran; he died in 1936.

The last surviving Granville veteran of the war was Albert Norris, a member of the 76th OVI. Taken prisoner in North Alabama in late 1864, he survived his POW experience only to suffer through the worst maritime disaster in this country's history. Upon being freed he was provided passage from Vicksburg on the steamer *Sultana*; he was able to make it overboard when that ship's boilers exploded, turning the vessel into a fiery deathtrap that quickly went to the bottom of the Mississippi River. Over 1700 passengers perished but Norris, although his shoulder was badly burned, was able to find an empty cracker barrel and float downriver until rescued. He later served as a telegraph operator and station agent at Kylesburg (Union Station). Later he served as the Superintendent of the County Infirmary south of town on the Lancaster Road. Upon retirement he returned to Granville where he was a regular participant in community affairs and parades. With his passing on January 1, 1936, Granville's last direct link with this momentous period was gone.

Note on Sources

Research for this publication required a survey of numerous letters, articles and books to provide insight not only upon the individual participants but also to place the events occurring in the Granville community in a historical context. Utter's *Granville: The Story of an Ohio Village* (1955) offers an excellent starting point although it places a decided emphasis on village affairs to the exclusion of military matters during this tumultuous period.

The story of Denison University during this period is told by Shepardson's *Denison University 1831–1931, Centennial History* (1931), with its neatly balanced attention to alumni and students who took up arms on both sides. Also available in the Denison Archives are the William H. Avery Papers (Unpublished) and archival files pertaining to Thomas J. Sheppard, as well as other Civil War-related material such as the 1900 edition of *The Adytum.* This volume is an excellent source of alumni accounts of their school memories during the Civil War era.

In tracing the history of those units in which Granville-area men served, the *Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of Rebellion 1861–1865* contains valuable statistical information. For serious researchers, the National Archives in Washington D.C. maintains voluminous information on each unit to include daybooks, disciplinary records, and pension records of individual soldiers. The Ohio Historical Society Library also maintains a copy of many of these files in microfilm. Another solid account of local military history is the dated but still useful *Military History of Ohio* (1887) by H.H. Hardesty. A book that contains numerous anecdotal accounts of Granville soldiers is F.N. McAdams *Everyday Soldier Life: History of the 113th Regiment OVI* (1884).

Contemporary newspaper accounts were also extremely helpful in tracing the routines of community life, political activity, and efforts of local women's aid societies. The *True American, Newark Advocate,* and *Newark North American* were particularly useful and are available on microfilm at the Ohio Historical Society. For those

desiring additional detail on the local Copperhead movement and Confederate recruiting activity in Licking County, *The Story of Camp Chase* (1906) by William Knauss makes for interesting reading.

Much of the material for the biographical sketches was derived from a variety of sources. For further reading, Granville's *The Historical Times* offers biographical sketches on General Griffin (1998) and General Willard Warner (1992). There is also a good account of colorful sculptor Thomas D. Jones available at the Granville Historical Society Archives. The fascinating story of "Aunty Jack" was a serendipitous discovery in the *Ex-Slave Narratives—Ohio,* a WPA writing project maintained at the National Archives. The Denison Archives also have an extensive file on this lady who for so long was a fixture at that school.

Finally, as any experienced student of military history knows, you have to physically visit the battlefield to understand the action and what the participants experienced. Numerous visits to every battle site where Granville men participated require that I tender my gratitude to my very patient and understanding wife, Deborah.

About the Granville Historical Society

The Granville Historical Society was created on March 9, 1885, by Charles Webster Bryant, Crayton Black, and Francis Shepardson. Its formation was in part a response to the realization, after the 75th anniversary of the founding of the town, that firsthand memories of the early days of Granville were vanishing. One of the Society's first major acts, then, was to begin preserving and documenting the history of the community: Bryant produced invaluable genealogical records (including an inventory of the gravestones in the Old Colony Burying Ground, many of which have since eroded beyond recognition), and Bushnell wrote *The History of Granville, Licking County, Ohio*, in 1889. Some of the drawings produced for Bushnell's book are still among the most reliable images we have of early Granville and have been used in subsequent histories of the town (including the present volume).

Since those early days, the Granville Historical Society has continued to document the history of the community and its people. Highlights include Ellen Hayes' 1915 memoir *Wild Turkeys and Tallow Candles*, William Utter's 1955 *Granville, the Story of an Ohio Village*,

and a collectively written and edited three-volume history for the town's bicentennial in 2005, *Granville, Ohio: A Study in Continuity and Change*. The Society has also produced an annotated edition of an early history of Granville written as a series of newspaper columns by Rev. Jacob Little. Additionally, the GHS publishes the quarterly journal *Historical Times* with a wide range of stories on events and people from more than two centuries of Granville's past. The Pocket History you are holding is one of a series of brief and readable single-topic volumes the GHS is producing, just the latest way that the Society continues to preserve and present the history of Granville, Ohio.

The sharing of history does not just occur in print, however, and the GHS maintains an active calendar of events, with lectures and other special events planned frequently throughout the year. The Society's Museum, housed in the 1816 building that had been the Bank of the Alexandrian Society, is open seasonally; it houses and displays important artifacts from the history of the area, from a mastodon tooth, to a bassoon that saw action in the War of 1812, to a wide array of clothing and household objects. In addition, the Society maintains the historically important Old Academy Building at the

The Granville Historical Society with the 2012 addition of the Hubert and Oese Robinson Research Center.

corner of Elm Street and Main Street. Beginning in 2011, the GHS launched a major expansion including an addition to the Museum building that houses the Hubert and Oese Robinson Research Center. In this state-of-the-art archive, anyone may come and conduct research using our extensive genealogical and other records. Finally, the Society brings engaging mobile exhibits into the local schools that pass on Granville's history to the next generation.

If you are interested in visiting the museum, joining the Society, attending our events, volunteering to help out, making a donation, or learning more about the history of Granville, please visit our website: www.granvillehistory.org. You can also contact us by phone at 740-587-3951 or email at office@granvillehistory.org.