Willow Tree—sadness or mourning

Tree Trunk—brevity of life; number of branches can indicate family members buried at that site. (Robin perched on top is not part of the monument!)

Urn—the soul

Anchor—hope or eternal life; also used for navy veterans or Masons

Architectural Examples

Section 4B

Section 3A

Second Annual Cemetery Stroll 2013

Greenfield Historical Society

Greenfield, Ohio

Noteworthy Burials and Unique Monuments in the Greenfield Cemetery
Welcome

The Greenfield Cemetery is approximately 30 acres in size and was begun in 1868 when about 23 acres were purchased from John Anderson, Isaac Claypool and J. & R. Smith for $3,875. The cemetery was laid out in 1868 by Leopold Weltz, a landscape gardener and florist of Wilmington, Ohio. As it was then, it is still “a thing of beauty to behold”.

Mark Dwyer (Section 3B, Lot 181) was the first burial here. The remains of William Bell (1763-1801), a veteran of the American Revolution and the first recorded burial in Highland County, was disinterred from the Old Burial Grounds (cemetery next to Travellers Rest) and re-buried here in the Bell family plot. Other families also moved burials so their families could be in one burial plot.

The Wright family mausoleum (1873), Memorial Chapel (1896), Soldiers’ Monument (1907) and the Greenfield Mausoleum (1917; removed 2013) were also added.

In this booklet, we highlight not only noteworthy burials, but also some of the unique architectural features found throughout the cemetery. While all burials are noteworthy, the ones featured in this booklet have particular historic or local interest. As you visit the Greenfield Cemetery, we ask that you be respectful of the burials and the property in general. Our thanks to the Village of Greenfield and the maintenance team for their continued support and dedication to maintaining the Greenfield Cemetery.

The Village of Greenfield and Greenfield Historical Society are not responsible for accidents.

The Historical Society of Greenfield Ohio, formed in 1949, is non-profit and exists to further historical preservation and education in Greenfield, Ohio, and the surrounding area. To this end it will collect, preserve and interpret archival materials and artifacts indigenous to the Greenfield area; encourage historical research; sponsor programs, displays and special events; be concerned with the preservation of historical buildings and cooperate with other organizations interested.

This booklet and walking tour is one example of how we are supporting our mission. Visit our website to learn more about us and to find previous year’s “Cemetery Stroll” booklets.

On our website you can also find a link to burials in the Greenfield Cemeteries:

www.greenfieldhistoricalsociety.org/ghs-info-gen.html
Harriet West

1820 – 4/17/1879

Harriet Peyton (or Payton) West was the first wife of Augustus West, of the West Settlement and Abolition Lane historical marker which stands in front of the cemetery chapel. She was born in Culpepper Co., Virginia, and eventually moved to the Falls Creek area of Highland Co., Ohio. Records indicate that she and Augustus had 11 children with 10 surviving, which was a feat in that era. Daughter Mary married John C. Cannon who later served in the Civil War. The Greenfield Cannon family is a direct descendent.

Her stone reads:
Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his.

Leopold Weltz (1825-1890), the designer of the cemetery, was born in Prussia in 1825. His Grandfather, who was English, had been appointed as a Minister to the German Court and Leo’s father, Frederick, who was a botanist, had been in the Government of Germany as a geologist. Leo attended the University of Heidelberg and, while he was still a student, helped to lay out the Botanical Garden there. He accepted a position as the head gardener to Alexander III, the Tsar of Russia, where he remained until he was recalled to Germany to serve in the military. He fought during the Revolution of 1847 as a Lieutenant. In 1851 he came to West Virginia and in 1852 to Cincinnati, where he took a position as foreman of a nursery at Mt. Washington. He later started his own nursery. While working in Cincinnati he laid out the grounds of the estates of Salmon P. Chase and Governor Buchanan. He moved to Wilmington in 1857 where he played a role in the landscape design of the Sugar Grove Cemetery and other cemeteries at London, Springfield, Martinsville, Hillsboro and Corwin. From his nursery at Wilmington he shipped stock to many states and to the Indian Territories.
Memorial Chapel

Augusta A. Jones provided the chapel in 1896. Work on it was completed in 1897. The purpose of the chapel was to use as funerals and other public gatherings. It was originally furnished with pews and a platform in front where the casket was placed. A beautiful stained glass window is on the south side. Stone for the chapel was quarried from the then local Rucker Stone Quarry.

The chapel served the community until the mid 1940s and after that became a storage area for cemetery tools and equipment. After years of neglect, in 1990 “Friends of the Chapel” (including John Ed Donnells, Dorothy Lynch, Minerva Seitz and others) organized to raise funds for major repairs which included roof repair and wall reinforcement. The work was performed in 1996-1997.

Today it again is in need of repairs and hopefully funds can once again be raised for this effort.

Louis H. and Ray Ashling


Louis Ashling came from his native Germany at the age of 19 and worked in Cincinnati before settling in Greenfield. He was a harness and saddle maker. He opened a store in partnership with Edward Letsom in 1893. Later he bought out Letsom’s share. As his business grew he moved and then remodeled his new location. He bought six new John M. Waddell Mfg. Co. show cases and added accessories, such as horse blankets, lap robes and luggage. After World War I and the demise of the horse industry, he expanded and began to carry toys, appliances, hardware good, stoves and sporting goods. His son Ray ran the store after Louis retired. After Ray’s death the store was run by his wife Ruth and her son-in-law Russell Kerr and grandson Bill Kerr. The store closed Feb. 2, 1981 after the death of Russell. Great-grandsons of Louis, Walter and Kevin Curren bought the building and remodeled it and began Castle Records, selling tapes, 8 tracks, records and cassettes. The name Castle comes from the Knights of Pythias Lodge who used the third floor for meetings and labeled the building the Pythian Castle on the front façade. Just as Louis adjusted to a changing market, so did his great grandsons. After Castle Records, the building was purchased by Drew and Sandy Parker and became Castle Hallmark.
Albert Malden Mackerley
1850—1908

Albert Mackerley was born in South Salem where his father served as postmaster and his family was known for their innovative technical work in the carriage industry.

He attended the South Salem Academy and graduated from Miami University. He then spent 2 years studying law with Judge Alfred Dickey and then the Hon. Henry L. Dickey. Albert went on to graduate from the law school at the University of Michigan in 1875. In 1877 he entered practice in Greenfield and in 1879 he was admitted to the practice in the United States Court in Cincinnati. He was also postmaster in 1886; and Mayor 1892-93, 1898-99, 1906-08 (died in office).

He married Sada Hamilton in 1877 and became a widower in 1880. In 1894 he married Ella Harper Bell, widow of Charles Bell. After his death Ella and her daughter continued to live in the “Showboat House” [built in 1871] on Jefferson St. The 1940 census lists Ella as the head of the household at this address and her daughter and son-in-law living with her. This lovely house still looks much as it did in their day.

Section 5B, Lot 60

Soldiers’ Monument

Soldiers’ Monument, dedicated Oct. 23, 1907, was presented to the people of Greenfield by James Freshour, his sister Miss Hortense, and Juliana (White) Freshour, their mother, who was the daughter of the veteran Charles White, in honor of those who fought and died for the Union. Thousands attended the dedication, led by Price’s Premier Band and Gen. G.H. Hirst of Chillicothe delivered the address.

It is 56 feet tall, surmounted by a soldier at parade rest and eight and one-half feet tall. On four sides of the monument are floating banners with the inscriptions: Patriotism, Courage, Victory and Sacrifice. The four figures at the base represent the branches of the service: Infantry, Artillery, Cavalry and the Color Bearer. James Brown King sculpted the 5 figures on the monument. He was Scottish by birth and apprenticed in Europe. One notable previous work was the bronze portraiture of Queen Victoria from which her Jubilee coins were copied.

The monument was made by the Hughes Granite Co. of Clyde Ohio. They also made Civil War monuments at Shiloh, Vicksburg, the Andersonville Prison grounds, and Antietam.

The bronze face medallion embedded in the shaft of the monument is that of James H. Freshour. In his will James named a committee of E.H. Miller, J.N. Beatty, J.T Collier, Wm. Martin, T.R. Willis and C.F. Wilson to oversee the creation of the monument.
As the above postcard illustrates, the cemetery fountain was once a beautiful addition (circa 1915) to the Greenfield Cemetery. It was a focal point in front of Soldiers’ Monument greeting visitors as they entered the cemetery. Unfortunately someone stole the entire fountain and the thief was never determined. Today, as shown in the picture to the right, all that is left is a stone ring and an urn used for flower planting.

The Peoples Saving Bank was chartered in 1905, by Austin Ferneau who was listed as its president. In 1909 it acquired the assets of the Commercial Bank and then merged in 1911 with the Peoples National Bank, a newly formed bank that had just received its charter as a national bank from the United States Treasury Department. Austin was not listed as an officer at that. The descendent of this bank still operates in Greenfield as Merchants National Bank.

Austin married Anna B. Hixson sometime after the 1900 census, which listed him as single and living at home. They had two daughters: Mary Katherine, born in 1904, who married Walter Mossbarger and Anna Louise, born in 1912, who married Delbert Cowman. Austin died in 1912. This picture was taken soon after his death as one can see the flowers at his gravesite and his individual tombstone is not placed yet. We do not know the young man in the photo. Since he is driving a pony trap often used by younger people there is the possibility it is a son of Austin’s brother Floyd, whose family is buried on the opposite side of the Ferneau marker from Austin and Annie.

Section 3A, Lot 73
William Forest Woodmansee served four terms as mayor (1940-1947) of Greenfield (the longest tenure ever accorded an individual in that office). He had a long record of service in civic, fraternal, patriotic and sports circles. His family moved to Greenfield when he was nine years old and he graduated from Greenfield High School. He was associated with his father in the Woodmansee Superior Ice Cream Co. (below left) until enlisting in the Navy in 1917. Returning from the service he resumed his business association with his father and took over its operation which he continued until WW II.

He married Ruth Gray Waddell and they had one daughter, Becky Woodmansee Gossett. His granddaughter Sharyn Gossett Salzano lives in Greenfield today.

An ardent sports fan, he was an organizer of Greenfield’s first softball league (Woodmansee Superior Team), playing at old McArthur Park and later at Edgewood Field.

Section 3A, Lot 78

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Frank Raymond Harris

1880—1965

Born the son of David M. and Sarah Shrock Harris, Frank Raymond (FR) Harris served the Greenfield Schools as teacher, principal, and superintendent. Many may not realize he was the author of *The Chronicles of Greenfield and the County McArthur, Itchin’ Feet, A Greene Countrie Towne, Roses in December*, and *Hometown Chronicles*.

He also became an extensive traveler visiting 128 countries and even flew on the Hindenburg. One of his poems is shown to the right.

The picture at the top shows FR seated upon an elephant during a tour of India. This picture is from his book *Itchin’ Feet*, published in 1951.
Margaret Plyley Murray

1873—6/12/1960

As a country correspondent for the Chillicothe Gazette, Mrs. Murray reported the happenings of the little community of Fruitdale, near her stately old home of “Forestwild Farm” on Route 41. Her service covered a period of 50 years, and at the time of her retirement in 1959, she wrote to the Editor Howard C. Oyer: “I enjoyed every minute of it.”

Margaret was born to Francis Plyley and Eliza Ann Collier in 1873 and she married Mitchell James Murray. “Echoes of Forestwild”, one of her noted works, represented the impressions of the 86 years that she lived on the Paint Township Farm in Ross County [see picture below]. Remembering Ralph Price as musical leader at the Presbyterian Church, she wrote in his memory on July 22, 1939:

At rest, at last, the organist sleeps
With still and folded hands;
In the church he loved and served so long
Closed and silent the organ stands.
The gifted organist gave of his best
As he passed along the way,
His song of the years shall still live on,
Though the organ be silent today.
Weep not that the organist rests at last
With still and folded hands;
In many a heart he has left a song,
Though the organ silent stands.
With sweetest strains of music here
Earth’s discord may be bound;
Undreamed the cadences of heaven
Where life’s lost chord is found.

Section 1, Lot 117

Milton Irwin Dunlap

10/10/1869—11/15/1957

The Dunlap Pony Farm was established in 1905 at Fifth and Spring Street. The office and sales barns were at the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Spring Street. [The house in the picture, known as Edgewood, still stands.] At its peak there were as many as 600 Shetland ponies grazing on approximately 1100 acres. Ponies were bred from imported pedigree and shipped to all parts of the U.S. and Canada. The book "Child's Life on a Pony Farm" was published and was based on the pony farm. Another book was also published [1909] entitled “Childhood and Ponyhood Blended”. With Mr. Dunlap, ponyhood and childhood blend with amazing grace. His logic is that the pony loves the boy and girl, and the boy and girl love the pony.

Section 3A, Lot 142
Augusta A. Jones

1823—9/7/1894

Little is known about the personal life of Augusta Jones. She was a widow who married Benjamin B. Jones, a blacksmith, in 1845 in Grafton, New Hampshire. In the 1860 census they are in Greenfield. They had no children.

Upon her death she left a bequest in her will for a chapel to be built between the two drives of the new Greenfield Cemetery. Henry L. Dickey was the lawyer who was the executor of her estate. She allotted $2,000 for the building. The actual cost was $2,023. There was still the purchase of the interior furniture and the stained glass window and those items were estimated to cost $350.

In 1897 a Cemetery Chapel Benefit was held on June 21 at the Opera House to secure the extra funds. Entertainment for the evening included: the Crothers Orchestra; the Quartette of Messrs. Boggess, Jackson, Miller and Price; 2 whistling solos by Mr. Henry Price; 2 musical selections by Miss Nellie Marie McClain and 2 vocal solos by Miss Hortense Gardner.

The audience then was held in awe by the Kinetoscope “Life-Like” presentations of: “Nigara Falls” - You can almost hear them roar; “Barnyard Scene” - See the pigeons flutter; “Railroad Scene” - Look out for the express and “Bathing Scene” - See them dive. The evening ended with the presentation of the Kinetoscope scene “Trouble in the Park” - Two Lovers.*

*descriptions of the selections were taken directly from a program of the event. We could not make this stuff up!

Dwight O. Miller

3/3/1871—11/24/1929

Many know the large stone house (pictured below) on the corner of Second and South Streets (utilizing stone from the Rucker Quarry) built for Dwight O. Miller and Madge W. Miller circa 1896.

The Miller family’s banking history began with D.O. uncle’s banking career in the early 1850s in Iowa. In the late 1850s after visiting his brothers here, the uncle convinced his brother Henry and his mercantile partner W. W. Caldwell to open a bank known as Caldwell and Millers’ Exchange. After closing the mercantile business, the partners, in 1863, became an early national bank, known as the National Bank of Greenfield. This bank was soon sold to the John V. Wright family (who built the only private mausoleum in the Greenfield cemetery), changed its name, lost its national charter and later failed in the Panic of 1873.

In 1867 they chartered the Highland County Bank which survived until 1930. Its building is now the location of Merchants National Bank.

Upon his return from the Civil War, Edward Hamilton Miller, Dwight’s father, began his banking career as a cashier. He later bought out his partners and became bank president in 1868, a position his son D.O. would later hold until his death Nov. 24, 1929.
Mary Irwin was the wife of Joseph Irwin who lived in Pennsylvania. Their three sons (Henry, Joseph and Edward) came to Ohio to live on lands purchased by their father. The Irwin boys intermarried with the Bonners, Elliotts, Dunlops and Duncans. Rear Admiral Noble E. Irwin was a member of the family. After their father's death, the sons urged Mary to come to Ohio to live. Mary was a woman of education and culture and was horrified at the idea of living in the wilds of Ohio. On April 15, 1853, she wrote to her sons, “I do not think that you have any room to spare. You could not entertain a lady from Pennsylvania in your backwoods cabin.” Eventually, however, she did decide to come to Ohio and was very much surprised to find that her sons were living in comfortable homes. She arrived with trunks and bags packed with a wardrobe of silks, satins and brocades which were the marvel of all the ladies for miles around. For years the young people drew upon that wardrobe when they needed costumes for their amateur theatricals. Mrs. Irvin displayed surprising ability in adapting herself to the backwoods of Ohio but she never forgot that she was a lady from Pennsylvania.

[Excerpt from “A Greene Countrie Towne”, F.R. Harris]
Alexander Beatty was born in Pennsylvania in 1797 and moved to Perry Township, Fayette Co. in 1825. He settled on land given to his father, John Beatty, as a land grant for military service. An Abolitionist, he and neighbor Augustus West (husband of Harriet West, page 22) devised a scheme whereas they would travel across the Ohio River where they would pose as slave and slave peddler. After being sold, West would escape and return to Ohio. The money from these sales would help finance their continued abolitionist work.

Beatty's first wife was Margaret Crawford Ewing. She died in 1856 at the age of 48. His second wife, Mary Jane Lyle outlived him, dying in 1890 at the age of 71. Alexander Beatty's great-great-grandchild and family still live on and farm the same land.

Sarah Ballard Sollars (died 5/19/1885) was born and raised in the stone farm house on Rt. 138 just west of Greenfield. She was the aunt of Augusta A. Ballard Murray of Murray Funeral Home and she was also the maternal grandmother of the Shrock-Duckworth line. While Sarah and her husband Allen were building their large brick home on St. Rt. 41 north (which is still standing and occupied) he died (5/22/1868). Sarah went on to manage the family's farms and increase their property. At her death, each of her three living children inherited a large amount of farmland.

Sarah also owned the property that is now St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery. The large brick house on SR 41 across from the cemetery belonged to her great nephew Fay Ballard and his wife Grace Fullerton Ballard. It was torn down when R.R. Donnelly expanded.
Map Legend

The numbered areas denote the various Sections within the cemetery and the other letters correspond to the sites described in this booklet.

Carvings and their Symbolism

Lily of the valley—young innocent child

GAR-Grand Army of the Republic;
Union fraternal organization from the Civil War created in 1866; Began the tradition of Decoration Day on May 30th; lobbied for pensions and soldiers' homes

Anchor—hope or eternal life; also used for navy veterans or Masons

Broken bud or branch—someone who has died prematurely; usually seen on a younger person’s gravestone

Arch—passage to heaven

Clasped hands—farewell to earthly existence

Column—mortality; a broken or draped column represents the break in earthly to heavenly life

Drapery—mourning

Lamb—usually seen on child’s grave; represents innocence

Urn—the soul

Willow tree—sadness or mourning

Crows—righteousness

Tree trunk—brevity of life; number of branches can indicate family members buried at that site