

THE HISTORICAL TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANVILLE, OHIO, HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Thomas D. Jones and Cincinnati

The Brittania Encyclopedia of American Art says of Thomas David Jones (1811-1881): "A portraitist working in a dry, undramatic and unheroic naturalism. In 1851 he settled in New York City where he continued to produce portrait busts and numerous profile bas-relief medallions of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and a bust of Abraham Lincoln (1861); however each of these is weak formally and lacks the dignity associated with the subject. In 1865 Jones returned to Cincinnati and shortly thereafter modeled one of his finest portraits--that of Griffin Taylor (Cincinnati Art Museum). Another superior bust is his marble bust of Salmon P. Chase (about 1874, Supreme Court Building, Washington)."

When I moved to Cincinnati in 1978 I was surprised to learn that this interesting son of our Welsh Hills was considered a Cincinnati native. As I learned more of him I came to see he was a person of many places: coming from New Jersey with his family to the Welsh Hills at age 26, he had worked for three years with his father on stone bridges for the Ohio Canal, and in Newark tombstone works during winters. He lived and worked in Cincinnati from 1840 until 1850 when he moved his base of operations to the east coast. He was back again in Cincinnati in the 1860's; and there was a short Texas period in Houston and Galveston in the early 1870's, until he returned to Columbus for his final years.

The claim of Cincinnati has validity. It was there during the 1840's Jones developed his talents in wood, clay and stone. He was part of the second wave of artists working there, following such men as Hiram Powers and Clevenger, men who had gone on to study and work in Europe. Powers had been urged by Mrs. Trollope to do some clay modeling for a wax museum of a scene from Dante's Inferno, and then was sponsored by Nicholas Longworth for a studio in Italy. Each of these men had used a



**"Western Soldier on Guard"
The Civil War Memorial at
Pomeroy, Ohio**

small building at the corner of Race and Seventh Street as a studio, and then passed it on to another young artist needing a place to work. Jones appeared in 1841, timely for his developing talents and for the artistic circles of the city. His first bust appeared in 1842, of John Coleman, a local citizen. The period 1840-60 was a rich one for busts, and Cincinnati was a good place to work from: the Catholic Cathedral was being built, Spring Grove Cemetery was in developing stages, and numerous political figures lived in such nearby places as Lexington, Lebanon, Lancaster, and the City itself. Henry Clay must have spent considerable time, evidently willingly, posing for artists, and was most cordial in recommending Jones after a sitting. This evidently began his foray into national political work, the Whig Party becoming quite a market for busts. He moved from William Henry Harrison to Clay to Thomas Corwin to Zachary Taylor, Lewis Cass and Winfield Scott. He traveled widely for these sittings.

Apparently Jones was his own business agent and public relations person, at least during the 1840's. A number of items can be found in the Cincinnati Enquirer telling of his work in progress, where orders for a new bust could be made in connection with a political meeting, or of proposals for some new public monument. The local papers boosted Jones as artist, and at the same time boosted the City and the level of its art work.

His First Sculpture

Granville's Clara Sinnett White reported a conversation with an old artist near Bowling Green, Kentucky, who knew Jones in his Cincinnati period, and tells of one of his first works: "I remember the first piece of sculpturing Jones did. It was a job for a man in Cincinnati who lived out near the cemetery, and was a dolphin.

After Jones started on the job he found the stone was not large enough to have the fish out straight in the proper shape, so he made it in a twisted form. One day Joel Hart, the famous Kentucky sculptor, came out to where Jones was working and seeing a little girl close by, he asked her if she knew where Mr. Jones was. 'I haven't seen Mr. Jones this afternoon replied the little girl, 'but you must come and see what a funny fish he is making. He has it all done but straightening it out'."

In 1850 Jones went East. He seems to have developed a sort of partnership with a business associate. Clients throughout the '50's included business men, church leaders, artists, and other public figures. One bust in particular of the noted actress Julia Dean may have preceded or followed a highly public affair, which was broken off when Julia refused to leave the stage and Jones refused to consider going on the stage.

The Lincoln Commission

By the 1860's Jones had returned to Ohio. Whigs had helped form the new Republican Party, and Jones was given the commission in December by Ohio Republicans to go to Springfield, Illinois, and do a bust of the newly elected president. During the next six weeks Jones worked in the room in the St. Nicholas Hotel that Lincoln was using to work on his Inaugural speech, handle mail, and greet wellwishers, as he prepared for leaving Springfield in mid-February.

We have several letters from Jones to his family in the Welsh Hills during the 1860's. He sent magazines and pamphlets to them by post so that they could keep up on the events of the War and the national scene. He remembered social events of a former day fondly, and sometimes asked about his contemporaries, especially one or two young ladies.

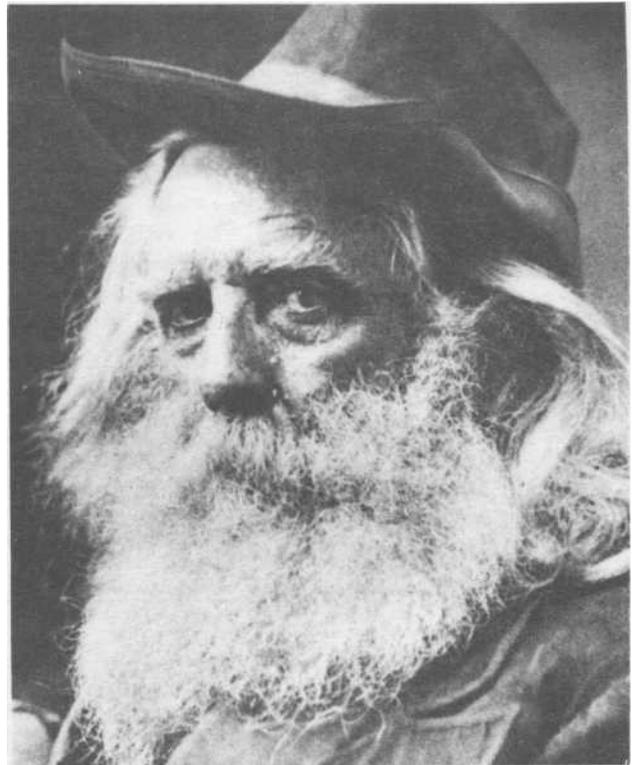
By 1863 communities were being seriously affected by the War, and began to consider ways to commemorate the lives being lost of young soldiers. A Cincinnati committee had raised over \$10,000 for a soldier monument to be placed in now famous Spring Grove Cemetery. Jones sought the commission, and is actually given credit for the monument placed there in some books, but it was not so. The work was given to Randolph Rogers and completed and cast in Florence and Munich.

Jones had kept contact with Cincinnati during the 1850's while away; he had placed a bid for the commission of a large "Pioneer Monument" in 1858, which was never built, and had drawn plans for a Perry monument on Lake Erie, which was rejected. He placed two monuments in Spring Grove for prominent Cincinnati families as late as 1874.

"The Western Soldier "

The vogue for soldier monuments having been established, Jones pursued such commissions. An Enquirer reporter in 1866 visited his studio on Vine Street to report on a 12 foot high "Western Soldier on Guard" nearly finished. The reporter even suggests that the War may have been won by the rugged qualities found particularly in the Western soldiers. This was probably the statue sold to Greencastle, Indiana, which was erected atop a pedestal carrying names of all the men from the town who had been in the Northern armies. It stands today in the town cemetery of Greencastle. Another "Western Soldier," similar, sits in the shade of trees surrounding the courthouse in Pomeroy, Ohio, alert to any danger that may come to his comrades.

Jones never handled money well, and though he received thousands of dollars for his works, he spent freely. His lifestyle was somewhat Bohemian. In the summer of 1867 the



**Thomas David Jones
(1811 - 1881)**

Enquirer carried an extended account of his marriage to Miss Carrie Bealer, with the entire Cincinnati artist community present. The much younger bride's father was a man of some means, and later was to provide security for completion of a statue of General James B. McPherson to be placed in the cemetery at Clyde, Ohio. Father-in-law died soon after, and in an unusual court case it was ruled that the executor of the estate had to honor the contract since it was a matter of art and deserved special consideration. But the marriage lasted only five years, until 1872, when Jones in his restlessness sought new fields for work in Houston and Galveston, Texas.

Last days in Cincinnati saw the beginning of correspondence with State officials about commissions for sculpture of Ohio Civil War figures while they were still living. He remembered that working from a life mask alone on the bust of Webster had been unsatisfactory. When Governor

Hayes came into office he began to work toward such a commission, and much of the correspondence can be found in the Hayes Library in Fremont, Ohio. The result was dedication in 1871 of the bas-relief scene of the Surrender at Vicksburg, with Ohio's Grant and Sherman and the southern generals, in Ohio's Statehouse. Nearby is a copy of Jones' bust of Lincoln, just outside the door of the Senate chambers. Jones spent his last years in Columbus, trying to garner additional funds for his last work from the Legislature. He was finally given an additional \$3,000 for the work, but it was to be handled for him by a nephew, a local attorney.

He chose to be buried in the Welsh Hills Cemetery, next to the graves of his parents. He had selected a large granite boulder for his marker, and had the promise of some nephews to see to its placement. The distance and the size of the stone made it a herculean task. By 1964 much of the bulk had sunk into the soft earth. Our Historical Society and another donor combined to raise the stone and place it on a concrete base, where it rests today.

- William Stewart



GRANVILLE CHRONOLOGY

From time to time the newsletter will present excerpts from the chronology of Granville by Horace King. The following selection covers the period 1800 through 1804 which led up to the migration to Ohio in 1805.

- 1800 Isaac Stadden, while deer hunting, met four men encamped at the mouth of Ramp Creek where it empties into the South Fork of the Licking River about one mile south of the intersection of present 30th Street and Route 79. The men were John Jones, Frederick Ford, Phineas Ford and Benoni Benjamin, brothers-in-law.
- 1801 John Jones built his cabin on the future Munson farm, now Bryn Du, about 600 feet north of the Newark Road. The others built out of the township. Patrick Cunningham built his cabin 800 feet northeast of Jones and two young men built nearby. Cunningham set out a fruit orchard.
- 1802 Lilly Benjamin Jones died in childbirth on October 22 at 28 years of age. John Jones sold his cabin to Edward Nash, moved to the region of Wheeling, Virginia, remarried and raised a second family.
- 1803 James Kilbourne of Granby, Connecticut formed the Scioto Land Company and brought a party of 100 to Ohio to settle the village of Worthington. John Duke built his cabin on Raccoon Creek, on part of the Munson Farm.
- 1804 Samuel Everett, Jr., encouraged by letters from Worthington describing the Ohio country, met with Levi Buttles and Job Case of the Worthington Company, and they advised him to take this interest to Timothy Rose, a leading citizen of Granville, Massachusetts.

April 3: Timothy Rose called a meeting in East Granville, Mass. He obtained 35 signatures to an agreement to finance an exploration to Ohio in the vicinity of Worthington. Fee of \$8.00.

Ashmun, Reuben	Everett, Samuel Sr.	Jones, William	Rose, Timothy
Atwater, Russel	Everett, Samuel Jr.	Kelley, Hugh	Seymour, Asa, Jr.
Bancroft, Ethan	Forbes, Horatio	Messenger, David	Sinnet, James
Buttles, Levi	Gates, Nathan	Moore, Frederick	Slocum, Cornelius
Buttloph, Elihu	Godard, Dan	Noble, Solomon	Spelman, Timothy
Case, Job	Hates, Levi	Pratt, Worthy	Street, Ebenezer
Clark, Araunah	Holcomb, Alvin	Reed, Benjamin	Thrall, Samuel
Cooley, Levi	Holcomb, Noadiah	Rose, Lemuel	Winchell, Silas
Day, Asa	Hoskin, Titus	Rose, Levi	

May 5: Levi Buttles, Job Case and Timothy Rose sent to Ohio to view and arrange for purchase of lands for settlement in vicinity of Worthington.

August 6: New agreement with fee of \$10.00 - 44 signatures.

Buttles, Enoch	Godard, Moses Jr.	Linnel, Joseph	Slocum, William
Buttles, Joel	Graves, Enoch	Messenger, Daniel	Spelman, Spencer
Carpenter, Amos	Graves, Roswell	Miller, Ozni	Taylor, Theodore Sr
Case, Job W.	Griffin, Joab	Mitchell, Sylvanus	Taylor, Theodore Jr
Cheney, Ebenezer	Hayes, Andrew	Phelps, John	Waters, Benjamin
Clemens, Ebenezer	Hayes, Seth	Phelps, William Jr	Waters, Samuel
Cooley, Elihu	Holcomb, Arden	Phelps, William Sr	Wells, Ezekiel
Cooley, Zadock	Holcomb, Asa	Rice, Jesse	Wells, Israel
Cornel, Gideon	Holcomb, Ezra	Roe, Titus	Wilcox, John
Dean, Samuel D.	Holcomb, Sereno	Rose, Hiram	Wright, Jonathan
Gavit, William	Kendall, Joshua	Sinnet, John	Wright, Spencer

September 10: Levi Buttles, Job Case and Timothy Rose returned with a favorable report.

September 21: "The Licking Company" formed - 107 members signed to buy 28,000 acres in Ohio

Granville:44 Granby:36 Other towns:27

The Committee of "Trustees" of the Company:

Levi Buttles: Granby	Zadock Cooley: Granville
Levi Hayes	Timothy Rose
Seth Hayes	Cornelius Slocum
Noadiah Holcomb	Timothy Spelman
Solomon Noble: Blandford	Samuel Thrall

Museum News

Recent gifts to the society include a Bradberry Concert Grand Piano made in 1845 from the John Martin family of Heath. The piano has a beautiful rosewood case, ivory keys and is in excellent condition. It has been tuned and is on display in the Old Academy Building.

Lilia Forsythe has given a melodeon and a rare zither in a case to the Society. These two instruments are presently on loan and on display in the Robbins Hunter Museum.

Blanche Miller of Granville has given to the society a Granville High School ring which belonged to Blanche Anderson Sayre, who received it when she graduated in 1893. The silver ring has "GHS" on the crest.

The following gifts were sent from Esther Starke Gutridge: a lace collar, a black lace mantilla, a photograph album and an autograph book dated 1856. We thank Ruth Lisle for bringing them to the Society for Esther.

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The woodcuts in this issue are from **GRANVILLE, THE STORY OF AN OHIO VILLAGE.**

The Historical Times is included with membership and is sent to all members of the Society. Questions or comments may be sent to:

Editors
The Historical Times
P. O. Box 129
Granville, Ohio 43023

Editorial Board: Florence Hoffman, Anthony Lisska, Mary Ann Malcuit

New Members

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COME JOIN US!

Write to:

The Granville Ohio Historical Society
P. O. Box 129
Granville, Ohio 43023

or call 587-0430 to request an application or for general information.

The Living Museum

--The following article continues the series of articles about museum exhibits.

To some a museum is merely the repository of unrelated objects from the past, but actually they are the living link to the present.

It is very gratifying to hear a visitor exclaim or point out to a child how something in use today evolved from an exhibit in the museum. The visitor can come away from a visit marveling at the ingenuity, patience and craftsmanship of the dedicated people who were the early settlers of our community.

Not only do these exhibits reflect the necessities of life to survive, but they also reveal a picture of their way of life through beautiful designs, painstakingly carved into furniture, molded into pottery and revealed in the intricate needlework of quilts and garments.

Exhibits in the Granville Historical Society Museum cover a range of interest for everyone. There are examples of early inventions, the phonograph, medical and dental tools, photography, early electric devices, transportation, craftsman's tools and even early office equipment. Early farm equipment such as wooden moldboard plows and forks and rakes all made of wood are on exhibit. All kinds of utensils that the housewife used in her kitchen are displayed.

Our Museum is fortunate in having a fine collection of Indian artifacts which has recently been augmented by a gift from a local family. This exhibit is very popular with collectors and children especially enjoy it.

One of the greatest contributions to the public is the availability of documentary information, pictures, letters and other information in the archives. Many visitors whose ancestors had roots in this community look for information such as burial, land ownership records, marriage and birth records in our files. Materials in the archives are carefully preserved in acid-proof paper and containers, and all records, papers, ledgers, books and documents have been fumigated to guard against insects and mildew that would destroy them.

As a non-profit organization the Historical Society must depend on volunteers to support its museum. Members and friends are urged to donate any time they can to help keep its contents available to the public. You may be assured of an interesting experience in learning the history of these varied exhibits and have the pleasure of meeting many interesting people who visit the museum.

- Fanchion R. Lewis
President, Granville
Historical Society





From the Archives--

**Spring Valley, a favorite destination for walks and picnics,
as it appeared about 1906.**



The Granville Ohio Historical Society
Post office Box 129
Granville, Ohio 43023