

THE HISTORICAL TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANVILLE, OHIO, HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Bushnell's History of Granville: Centennial of Publication

AB ORIGINE.

Granville township is a tract of choice land five miles square, centrally located in the county of Licking, State of Ohio. Through the center of it, from west to east, runs the middle fork of the Pataskala, or Licking River, this branch being commonly called Racoon Creek. Irregularly skirting the stream on either hand is a chain of hills from one to two hundred feet high, out of whose tops excellent stone is quarried, and from whose base flow perennial springs. They are diversified with ridges, knobs, spurs, and buttes, and here and there the chain is broken by the valleys through which the brooks, fed by those springs, find their way into the leading stream.

This is the locality, the events of which are narrated in the following pages.



*The beginning of Chapter 1
of Bushnell's History*

"The First House That Sheltered
a Family in Granville Town"
Page 53, Bushnell's History

The History of Granville, Licking County, Ohio was published in September 1889. Henry Bushnell explains in the Preface to the book that he was gathering historical material before the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Village in 1880 when he discovered that Charles Webster Bryant was engaged in similar work. They agreed to combine their efforts for publication and arranged that Bryant would take the genealogies and family histories, and Bushnell the annals.

The archives of the Society contain dozens of letters written to either Henry Bushnell or to C.W. Bryant in answer to their inquiries about events, places, buildings or family relationships. Much of Bryant's outgoing correspondence is also preserved in the form of copies in his letterpress books. The annals were ready in 1880 but Bryant was still engaged in the extensive correspondence required to establish family histories. Much of the correspondence between Bushnell, who then lived in Westerville, and Bryant has been preserved. In a letter dated February 3, 1885 Bushnell advises Bryant to confine the genealogies to the original settlers or "you will have no line at which to stop."

Apparently worried about his health and concerned about completing the project, Bushnell inquires on November 2, 1885, "How would you like to buy out my interest in the manuscript?" Bryant must have been interested because Bushnell writes on November 6 that he will deliver over his interest in the manuscript for a price agreeable to both. "I suppose I have about three times as much labor on the work since you took \$50 in it." He asks for ten copies, if published, to give to those who have helped him. He wishes to put his affairs in order "believing myself to have less than an average tenure of life."

Bushnell put the agreement in writing and he and wife signed it on December

26, 1885. In a document dated December 30 of that year, Bryant, in consideration of the transfer of right and title, obligated himself to pay Henry Bushnell, or his heirs, \$75 at the time of publication in addition to the amount already paid.

It was Charles Webster Bryant, however, whose life was to be short. He was still at work on the genealogies when he died of typhoid fever on August 31, 1886. The manuscript passed into his estate. There is an interesting document in the Society Archives, handwritten in pencil on the back of an advertisement for the Bryant Drug Store. It is an undated "Agreement between C. W. Black (Bryant's partner in the store) and H. Bushnell." In it Black agrees to try to publish the book, returning it if unsuccessful, for a sufficient price to realize \$125. From this the estate would be paid the appraised value, expenses would be paid, and Black would receive the remainder. He further agreed to furnish \$75 to \$100 in printing plates. There is no record that this draft agreement was formalized or that Black ever tried to publish the manuscript.

Nearly two years after Bryant's death, The Granville Times of June 7, 1888 carried notice of a meeting to be held for those interested in the publication of the History of Granville. The June 14 issue reported on the meeting. Committees were formed and The Reverend Henry Bushnell read a paper, giving his views as to the best mode of procedure. It was decided that a guarantee fund of at least \$500 should be raised. Further meetings were held throughout the summer and fall and the Times of January 31, 1889 announced the History of Granville was now in the hands of "The Granville History Publishing Company." The record had been brought to 1888 and the contents of the book, the maps, and original drawings were described in some detail. Three hundred copies were to be printed and sold for \$2.50 per copy. Throughout

the spring and summer, the Times carried periodic notices on the progress of the book and finally, on September 5, 1889, this article:

HISTORY OF GRANVILLE
The Long-looked for Book Now
Ready for Delivery

A copy of "The History of Granville, Licking County, Ohio, written by Rev. Henry Bushnell, A.M. Published by a company formed for the purpose, Columbus, O. Press of Hann & Adair, 1889," lies upon our table, and we congratulate Mr. Bushnell upon his success in bringing the manuscript to light, after many vexatious and exasperating delays and difficulties. The book contains 372 pages of a size 6x9 inches, and is illustrated by some thirty engravings showing various things of interest about Granville. It is full of matters of greatest value to our people, no Granville loving man or woman can afford to be without a copy.

The article goes on to give the title of each chapter and notes that the few extra copies available may be secured at \$3.00 each from Mr. Bushnell.

Apparently in response to some comments or "complaints," Bushnell published the following letter in The Granville Times on October 17, 1889:

Dear Times: In a recent issue you say, concerning the History of Granville, "we have heard some complaint because of inaccuracies in dates and names." will you kindly allow me to say to such complainants:

1. with about six thousand references to names and dates, many being gathered from tradition, it is to be expected that errors will occur.

2. Probably most of them will be found in matter added at the last in lieu of Mr. Bryant's work, and they would not have occurred had he lived to see to it.

3. A few typographical errors escaped notice in proof reading.

4. Some have gone back on the information themselves had communicated.

5. If any errors occur worth trouble of correction, the writer would be glad to have notice of them, as stated at the close of the preface. Having given a year's gratuitous work, he does not hesitate to ask all interested to join their aid to the extent of a postal card, in correcting a mistake. If there are a number sufficient to warrant it, a fly sheet will be printed and sent to each holder of a book.

6. As to omissions, it is particularly desirable that those necessary for a complete record should be added, as of Golden Weddings, Soldier's Roster, Professional Men, F.F.G's, Present Business Houses, etc. Such information will be thankfully received.

Respectfully,

H. Bushnell
westerville, Ohio

For the past one hundred years, we have been indebted to the pioneering work of Henry Bushnell and Charles Webster Bryant.



The Old Granville Bank (now the Granville Historical Society Museum), the Episcopal Church, and the Town Hall as they appeared in 1889.

Page 364, Bushnell's History

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ROOMS OF
THE GRANVILLE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Donations of Books, or Articles of Historic Interest, Thankfully Received and Properly Cared for.

Granville, Licking Co., O., 29 Oct. 1886.

Rev. N. B. Bailey.
Zanesville.
Ohio.

Dear Sir.

In conversation with Mr. B. F. Dumm of your city recently he suggested to me that possibly you could tell me about certain men of pioneer times who I suppose lived in or about Zanesville I refer to George Paull, Col. 27 Regt. U.S. Infantry. in war of 1812.

Captain H. Northrop. War of 1812.

" J. Carnes. "

and Lieut. Nehemiah Gregory. "

If you can give me any information of these men or indicate where or from whom information can be obtained your efforts will be highly appreciated by the Society. I represent and by many others who are interested in the local history of this region.

I find it very difficult to secure accounts of men and officers who served in the war of '12: but the names and personal histories of all of them are well worthy of preservation.

The Granville Historical Society are trying to preserve what they can of early history and a memory of early times and any aid you can give us will be thankfully received.

Very Respectfully Yours.

Chas. W. Bryant.

Sergeant Thall to Bushnell 169 Tremont Street Boston

Sept 6th 1880

Rev and dear Sir -

In reply to your request I send you my recollections of Granville - I am heartily glad you have undertaken such a history, and I wish for a copy of the work as soon as it appears -

I have searched among my old papers and found several sketches which I made when a boy. As they were made about 1840 I think you can rely upon ^{them} as correct. I find among them pictures of the Methodist meetinghouse and of the Granville Bank, as they were 40 years ago - The steeples on the Presbyterian Ch differ in our two sketches - I suppose the steeple was altered afterward, I think my outline represents it as it was then -

I think also my sketch of the Old School house - roof, side steps, woodhouse underneath, may be depended on - Don't forget that ^{the West} side was appropriated to the boys, & the East side to the girls.

If you think worth while to insert any of the above facts in your book, you can do so -

Very truly Your Brother in Christ
George E. Thrall

To Rev H. Bushnell

George E. Thrall sent sketches of Granville buildings, which he had made forty years earlier, to Henry Bushnell in 1880.

The document which transferred title to the manuscript from Henry Bushnell to Charles W. Bryant, in 1885.

At the left:
A letter of inquiry from Charles Webster Bryant to the Reverend N. P. Bailey written on the letterhead of the Granville Ohio Historical Society.

Westerville, Ohio, Dec. 26th 1885

For value received, we hereby transfer to Ch W. Bryant our right & title to the manuscript history of Granville written by H. Bushnell, one of the subscribers, in the years 1880-81, together with the illustrations & maps prepared for it; only stipulating that in the publication of the same some proper credit as author shall be given to the writer or delineator; & that no important change shall be made in the construction of sentences or chapters, by interlineations or other additions, or by omissions ^{unless by} ~~without~~ consultation with the said writer,

Henry Bushnell
Harriet M. Bushnell

The Reverend Henry Bushnell

Henry Bushnell was born in Granville, January 31, 1824. He was educated in the Granville Public Schools; Marietta College (1845); Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati (1845-1847); and Andover Theological Seminary in Massachusetts (1847-1848). He was ordained into the Presbyterian ministry in 1849 and held pastorates at Lexington (1849-1852) and Marysville (1852-1857) Ohio before failing health compelled him to give up the work of the ministry for three years. In 1860 he accepted Principalship of the Central College Academy in northeastern Franklin County with Mrs. Bushnell as Associate Principal. Central College had been established by the Marion, Ohio, Presbytery in 1842, but the college department had been suspended in 1850, and the financial situation of the institution was precarious. Enrollment in the Academy increased and the institution stabilized during Bushnell's administration. Concurrently he served as pastor of the Central College Presbyterian Church, but increasing ill health forced his resignation from both positions in 1866. He moved to Columbus and was in business there until 1868. Seeking a more favorable climate he taught in the Albany Collegiate Institute in Oregon for two years and then returned to Granville where he lived between 1870 and 1875. His interest in Central College Academy induced him to become the financial agent for the Academy from 1875-1881 and from 1883 to 1884. Despite the efforts of supporters, the Academy closed in 1894. To augment his salary during these years he operated a bookstore in nearby Westerville. During the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Granville in 1880, Bushnell read a paper on the early years of the village drawn from the manuscript of his history.

Henry Bushnell was an honorary member of the Granville Historical Society and was an honorary trustee of the Granville

Female College. Considered to be one of the most prominent and scholarly clergymen in Ohio, he is best known now for his History of Granville, Licking County, Ohio. He was also the author of A Book of Poems, theological articles and was a regular contributor to various church and secular publications.

He married Hannah Thompson of Granville. Their two children died in infancy and Mrs. Bushnell died in 1891. Henry Bushnell died in Westerville, Ohio on November 21, 1905. His sister, Julia Bushnell Johnson, lived in his home and cared for him in his last years. He is buried in Granville, in the family plot in Maple Grove Cemetery.

Information on the life of Henry Bushnell is taken from "The Granville Times" and from By One Spirit, by Lillian Brown Gossett, 1976; and from the Granville Historical Society Archives.

The Photography Contest

The Photography Contest, sponsored by the Society, was held on July 4th. First Place (Black and white)--"Early Morning, Old Colony Burying Ground" by P. Hartroft, M. Greider, and N. Kohser. First Place (Color)--"Generations" by Louis C. Scowcroft. The photographs submitted for the contest were displayed in the Old Academy Building. Steve Katz chaired the committee for the Photography Contest.

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

The Civil War Roundtable

The Civil War Roundtable sponsored by the Granville Historical Society met on Tuesday, September 19th in the Old Academy Building. Kevin Barnhard, a Denison graduate, presently pursuing graduate work in history at Ohio State, led a discussion on memoirs of Civil War soldiers.

The Civil War Roundtable will meet monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. If you are interested in receiving information about the Civil War Roundtable, please be in touch with Tony Lisska at Box 129, Granville, Ohio.

The Roundtable discussion topics for the rest of the year are:

October 17: "The Trial of Johnny Clem"

November 21: "George McClellan: The "What-If General" (Clarke Wilhelm)

December 19: Discussion of killer Angels

The Annual Dinner

Mark your calendar for November 13 and join us at 6:30 p.m. for the Annual Banquet of the Society at the Old Academy Building. Entertainment will be provided by Roger Foster from Coshocton. Mr. Foster has a program of canal songs portraying the famous canal song composer, Captian Pearl S. Nye.

From the Board of Management

The Board of Management of the Society from time to time will use pages in the Historical Times to keep the Society's members abreast of its activities and events.

This year was busy for the Board. The annual meeting held in April with

Mike Fol i n from the Ohio Village Singers performing three skits from Ohio travellers in the 19th century. Over the Fourth of July, the Society, under the leadership of Steve Katz, sponsored its first annual Photography contest. This was a juried contest with the photographs on exhibit in the Old Academy building over the Fourth's celebrations. The submitted photographs, all dealing with the Granville area, have become part of the Society's collection. This fall, a Civil War Round Table began meeting monthly in the Old Academy Building. The museum docents and the archivist continue to respond to many questions about the history of Granville and persons associated with the village over the years.

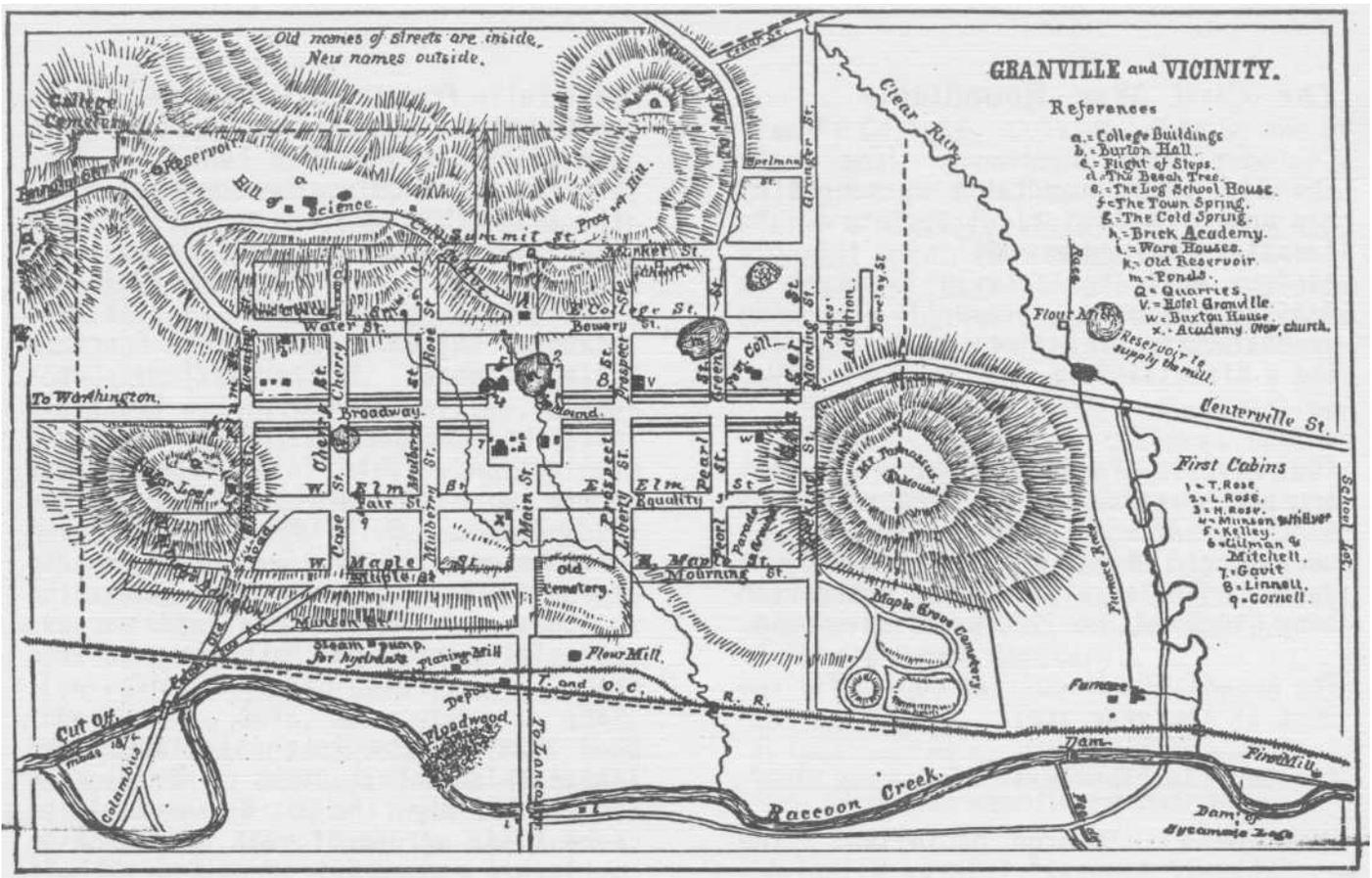
Despite the long association and invaluable contributions of Horace King to the Society, the Board was unable to come to an agreement with his agent to publish a manuscript about Granville's buildings and history.

Buck Sargent has been in charge of routine maintenance of both our buildings and the recent efforts renewing the exterior of the Museum Building. Dick Boyer installed the security system in the museum. Dick Mahard is busy installing storage cabinets in the basement of the Old Academy Building for the protection of the Society's collections. The publications committee has continued its work editing this newsletter for the society.

GRANVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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Granville and Vicinity

"The plat is 178 rods by 106, and contains a fraction less than 118 acres." Included on this map, which shows the topography, are major buildings, natural features, and the locations of the first cabins.

From Bushnell's History of Granville



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