



TRUMBULL
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
—
A KEY TO
OUR PAST

Trumbull County Historical Society

A Key to Our Past

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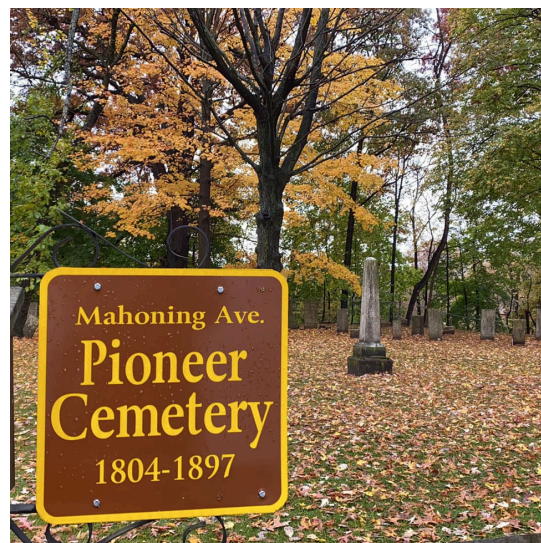
Trumbull County Historical Society Final Report

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board Grant

Digitization of Old Mahoning Cemetery Records

Summary of Project

The Trumbull County Historical Society (TCHS) has successfully completed its objectives for the OHRAB grant, which included the digitization and cataloging of 699 pages of a general index, 109 pages of a Veterans index, 168 film strips, 6 floppy disks, and approximately 700 photographs. These materials, received from the Trumbull County Genealogical Society, were cataloged to preserve the historical record of the Old Mahoning Pioneer Cemetery in Warren, Ohio. Two-thirds of the general index has been entered into the CatalogIT database, making this vital information accessible to the public. Additionally, we created a new webpage dedicated to the cemetery, with plans to expand it through an ArcGIS StoryMap, set for completion in 2026.



Intern and Volunteer Contributions

India Gatts, the project intern, dedicated over 200 hours to completing the inventory and cataloging of the entire collection. She worked extensively with the materials received from the Genealogical Society, ensuring that all items were meticulously hand-cataloged. She also began entering the data into CatalogIT, where two-thirds of the general index is now available to the public. India conducted research on the cemetery and its interred individuals, uncovering details from newspaper articles, land deeds, and online references. This research contributed to a Halloween cemetery tour that drew public interest and engagement.

Volunteer efforts supported the project with the development of a new self-guided walking tour pamphlet, designed to highlight significant landmarks and the contributions of individuals buried in the cemetery. Volunteers also organized cemetery cleanup events, which led to the removal of over 100 bags of leaves and the discovery of previously hidden headstones.

Digital and Public Engagement Outputs

READING HEADSTONES

In addition to names, birthdates and death dates, headstones were also decorated with inscriptions which loved ones used to pay homage to their dearly departed.

EPITAPH An epitaph is a short message honoring the deceased. They commonly reflected the religious beliefs, virtues and values of the interred. They tell of love lost, sorrow and sometimes they tell the story of how they died.

✦

Olive A., the daughter of Robert & Rebecca King, died March 25, 1853, aged 10 months and 20 days. Her epitaph reads:

"Let little children come unto me, and forbid them not for such is the kingdom of heaven"

Sadly, their son Charles J King, died June 28, 1854, aged 4 months and 28 days. His epitaph reads:

"Sleep on sweet babe & take thy rest God called thee home he thought (it best)"

✦

Joseph Barber, died Sept. 25, 1861, aged 1 year and 9 days. His epitaph reads:

"Dearest Joseph thou hast left thy loss we deeply feel But to God that has bereft us He can all our sorrow's heal"

✦

Charles S. Van Gorder Died Jan. 7, 1851, aged 16 years and 9 months. His epitaph reads:

"with all its beauty on Death comes of like a wintry day It cuts the lovely flower away"

✦

Enoch Reeves died March 15, 1839, aged 32 years. His epitaph reflects the hope of eternity.

"Sleep until Christ shall bid thee rise"

STORIES OF CIVIL WAR VETERANS

Calvin A. Waterman (NS) served as an Army Private in Co. G, 2nd Ohio Vol. Heavy Artillery. He died at the age of 23, in Bowling Green, KY, on July 10th, 1864, of typhoid.

His obituary in Western Reserve Chronicle 24 Aug 1864

"Farewell dear Calvin we mourn thy loss. Though we know this world is naught but cross; We trust thou hast found a home sublime, Though thy eyes were closed in a southern clime. Oh! would we have seen thy face again. Yet our loss is but thy greatest gain; We trust God heard thy dying prayer, Though great thy suffering surely were. Then may we mourn, grieve or weep, Since God has promised, always keep. Or may it be ours to join the choir, In heaven so sweet to part no more. R. A. W."

✦

Benjamin Scott (NS) came to Warren at the age of 22. He was a barber by trade. He served in the Civil War as a Private in Co. A, 5th U.S. Colored Troops. He died of lung disease at the age 52.

✦

Charles Freese (NS) served as a Corporal in Co. C, 19th Ohio Vol. Inf. On Jan. 24, 1868, he stabbed his wife seven times, then committed suicide "by inflicting eight stab wounds to his chest, one penetrated the heart and was sufficient to produce death".

Headline in the Western Reserve Chronicle Jan. 24, 1868

"HORRIBLE TRAGEDY ATTEMPT AT MURDER & SUICIDE

A Man Stabs his Wife Seven Times and Kills himself. WHISKY THE CAUSE?"

✦

Trumbull County Genealogical Society Old 'Mahoning' Pioneer Cemetery Survey

Trumbull County Historical Society


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WALKING TOUR

MAHONING AVENUE PIONEER CEMETERY

661 MAHONING AVE NW WARREN OHIO

Take a walk through the historic Mahoning Avenue Pioneer Cemetery, the first burying ground in the Western Reserve. Here are the stories, etched in stone, of the lives and deaths of the early pioneers of Trumbull County.



1804 - 1897


"The grave is now my home But soon I hope rise Mortals behold my doom Keep death before my eyes"

epitaph of Sally Allen Tracy DOD Apr. 5, 1820

New Walking Tour Pamphlet

A volunteer has spent roughly 25 hours working on a new self-guided walking tour pamphlet for the Old Mahoning Cemetery. Using the grant funds, we purchased a new brochure holder for the cemetery to replace the weathered wooden box previously used to house an old walking tour guide. The new walking tour pamphlets will be freely available to those who visit the cemetery any time of year.

A new walking tour pamphlet for Old Mahoning Cemetery provides visitors with a structured, informative guide to the site's significant landmarks and stories. By highlighting the lives and contributions of those buried there, the pamphlet helps foster a deeper connection to the community's heritage, encourages exploration, and ensures that these individuals' legacies are remembered and celebrated by both locals and visitors.



ENTRANCE

1 THIS MARKER AT THE ORIGINAL ENTRANCE

2 CHARLES WHITE SERVED IN THE WAR OF 1812. HE WAS A CABINETMAKER, LEDGED TOOL MAKER AND THE FIRST LIBRARIAN IN WARREN.

3 THOMAS WEBB CAME TO WARREN IN 1807. HE WAS A LAWYER, STATE SENATOR AND PUBLISHER OF THE FIRST NEWSPAPER.

4 ALEX RICHARDSON WAS BORN IN IRELAND AND CAME TO TRUMBULL COUNTY LATER IN LIFE. TO JOHN HIS CHILDREN, HIS RELIGIOUS MOTIF IS A PICKET FENCE WITH THE GATE AJAR. IT SYMBOLIZES ENTRY OF THE DECEASED INTO HEAVEN THROUGH THE OPEN GATE.

5 DAD MARKER HONORING THE SOLDIERS BURIED HERE WHO SERVED IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

6 HENRY HARDON SERVED IN THE AM REV. HE CAME TO WARREN IN 1801 WHERE HE BUILT A HOUSE AND BLACKSMITH SHOP. THE MOTIF IS THE WEeping WILLOW AND OUN.

7 JOHN STARKES EDWARDS SERVED IN THE WAR OF 1812. HE WAS A LAWYER, TRUMBULL COUNTY'S FIRST RECORDER AND A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS.

8 CAPT. ERZA RANDON SERVED IN THE AM REV. HE DIED "IN THE 64TH YEARS OF HIS AGE" AND WAS "KILLED BY THE KICK OF A HORSE". EPIGRAPH BEADS. "When first gave man his breath called him back by sudden death"

9 CALVIN AUSTIN SERVED IN THE WAR OF 1812. HE WAS A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE AND AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE. HE WAS ALSO A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE MASONIC LODGE. NOTE THE MASONIC SYMBOLS ON HIS TOMBSTONE.

10 SINA BOSWORTH'S EPIGRAPH REFLECTS THE RELIEF THAT CHRIST TOOK THEIR SINS "Should one the dead that die in the Lord"

11 HENRY LANE, SR. SERVED IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. HE SETTLED IN WARREN WITH HIS FAMILY IN 1799. THE LANE FAMILY DONATED THE LAND FOR THE CEMETERY.

12 THIS HEADSTONE IS A MEMORIAL FOR THE THREE BOSWORTH CHILDREN. IT TELLS THE TRAGIC STORY OF THE DEATH OF MARY, WHO DIED FEB. 13TH 1822 AGED 3 YEARS 5 MONTHS & 5 DAYS. TRAGICALLY, WHILE PLAYING NEARLY BY THE FIREPLACE, MARY'S NIGHTGOWN CAUGHT FIRE. SHE DIED LATER FROM THE DEADLY WOUNDS.

13 JACOB HARDON CAME WITH HIS FAMILY TO TRUMBULL COUNTY IN 1803. JACOB, LIKE HIS FATHER, HENRY, WAS A BLACKSMITH. HARDON SERVED IN THE WAR OF 1812.

14 WILLIAM ANDERSON WAS BORN IN 1743. HE WAS A VETERAN OF THE FRENCH & INDIAN WAR AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. HE DIED, AGED 94, IN 1837.

15 CARVED ON CYNTHIA LEAVITT'S HEADSTONE IS THE RELIGIOUS EPIGRAPH "Kind chords guard the sleeping clay."

16

ABBREVIATIONS:

AM REV - AMERICAN REVOLUTION
DAD - DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
PA - PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
NS - NO STONE
TCHS - TRUMBULL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HEADSTONE ICONOGRAPHY

A headstone motif is a carved design that reflects the religious beliefs and the ideology of the era.

The most popular motif in the early 19th century was the weeping willow tree. It symbolizes grief, sorrow and mourning, as well as eternal life.

The tomb is the core of the most common motif found on children's graves. It symbolizes purity and innocence. There are many infant's and children's graves in the cemetery. In the early 19th century, many infants did not live to their fifth birthday.

An urn, carved into a headstone was a commonly used motif that symbolized mourning and death.

An emblem of earthly love, the rose commonly adorned women's headstones. It symbolized love and loss as well as deep longing and sorrow. An open rose usually represented a married woman.

COMMON MASONIC SYMBOLS

ALL SEEN EYE OF GOD

REFERS TO GOD AND/JON GEOMETRY
OBSCURE MORALITY, "REAL SQUARELY"
COMPASS, WISDOM AND SELF RESTRAINT

LOOK FOR OTHER MASONIC SYMBOLS ON CALVIN AUSTIN'S HEADSTONE.



Digital and Public Engagement Outputs Cont.

Digital Database: Cemetery records have been digitized and integrated into our online collection database for public access.

Database link: <https://hub.catalogit.app/929/folder/e58e5290-646c-11ef-a938-4b01ba765425>

Website Integration:

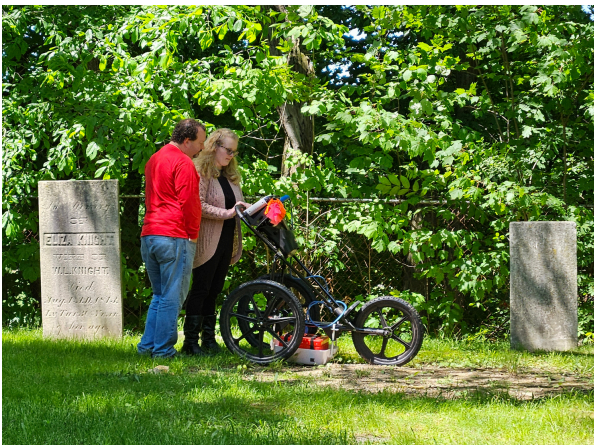
A dedicated page for the cemetery has been created and will be continuously updated with further research and project advancements, such as the upcoming ArcGIS StoryMap.

Webpage link:

<https://www.trumbullcountyhistory.com/old-mahoning-pioneer-cemetery/>

Project Publicity

Along with the OHRAB grant-funded project to digitize the cemetery records, we are also working on cleaning up the cemetery and conducting a ground penetrating radar (GPR) scan to search for unmarked graves. Dr. Matt O'Mansky from Youngstown State University has volunteered his time and equipment to conduct the GPR scan. TCHS began hosting clean-up days at Pioneer Cemetery starting in May. Since then, we have removed over 100 bags of leaves from the cemetery, which has allowed us to uncover hidden headstones that haven't been seen in years.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Ground Penetrating Radar to be Conducted at Pioneer Cemetery
Contact: Savannah Moss, Collections & Research Manager (330) 394-4653 or
savannah@trumbullcountyhistory.org

WARREN, OH—The Trumbull County Historical Society is excited to announce a groundbreaking project at the Old Mahoning (Pioneer) Cemetery in Warren. Dr. Matt O'Mansky, a professor of Anthropology at Youngstown State University, is leading an innovative effort to map and uncover hidden headstones using ground-penetrating radar (GPR).

Pioneer Cemetery, a historical gem in Warren, holds the final resting places of many of the area's early settlers. The first burial there is recorded in 1804. Over the years, some headstones have become weathered, shifted, or buried, obscuring the complete historical record of the cemetery. Dr. O'Mansky's efforts aim to address this by using state-of-the-art GPR technology to accurately locate all existing headstones, including those that are currently covered and unseen.

This project is not only significant for historical preservation but also for enhancing the educational and cultural understanding of Warren's heritage. By mapping out the headstones, the Trumbull County Historical Society aims to create more detailed records and potentially discover new historical information about the early residents of the area.

The community is invited to follow the progress of this project, which promises to shed new light on Warren's rich past. For updates and more information, please visit the Trumbull County Historical Society's website and social media channels.



Articles:

"Uncovering history at the Old Pioneer Cemetery in Warren"

May 30, 2024; Kaitlyn McCarthy

<https://www.wfmj.com/story/50849783/uncovering-history-at-the-old-pioneer-cemetery-in-warren>

"Project Aims to Identify Graves at Pioneer Cemetery"

May 31, 2024; George Nelson

<https://businessjournaldaily.com/project-aims-to-identify-graves-at-pioneer-cemetery/>

"Radar to zone in on hidden gravestones"

May 31, 2024; Mason Cole

<https://www.tribtoday.com/news/local-news/2024/05/radar-to-zone-in-on-hidden-gravestones/>



Project Expenses

Expense	Amount
Intern	\$2500.00
Epson Perfection V850 Pro Photo Scanner	\$1278.80
Archival Photo Storage Box (x2)	\$130.80
Samsill 500 Pack Archival Sheet Protectors	\$38.98
4" by 6" Photo Sleeves (x4)	\$34.00
RingFolio Box Binder 2.5" (x3)	\$170.10
35mm Film Storage Kit (x2)	\$136.50
Shelf	\$80
Walking Tour Brochure (500 count)	\$177.83
Outdoor Brochure Holder	\$22.99
TOTAL:	\$4570.00

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board National Historical Records & Publications (NHPRC) State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) Grants Regrant Program			
Salaries and Wages	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Total
Intern	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00
Authorizing Official (Meghan Reed, 5% of her time)		\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
Project Manager (Savannah Moss, 20% of her time)		\$5,250.00	\$5,250.00
Collections Manager (Kate Pfouts, 30% of her time)		\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Subtotals: Salaries and Wages	\$2,500.00	\$14,150.00	\$16,650.00

Future Plans:

TCHS intends to continue its commitment to the cemetery's preservation through ongoing research, digital updates, and community programming. The ArcGIS StoryMap initiative will provide an interactive historical experience, further enriching public engagement with this historical site. TCHS has also created community partnerships with other organizations through this project to hold annual clean-up days at the Cemetery.

We are grateful to the OHRAB for the funding and support that made this project possible, ensuring the preservation and accessibility of an important piece of Ohio's history for future generations.

