



**CEMETARY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 25, 2025**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Stoughton at 3:36 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mary Fee, Chair	A
Ron Stoughton, Vice Chair	P
Thomas Shockey, Secretary	P
Victor Wilson	A
Diana Jacobs	P/A – <i>departed at 4:22 pm</i>
Elizabeth Murch	P
Jeffrey Gastineau	P

Staff present: Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason.

Approval of the January 28, 2025 meeting minutes:

Member Murch moved to approve the January 28, 2025 minutes as submitted. Member Jacobs seconded and all members voted to approve the January 28, 2025 minutes.

Approval of the Agenda:

Vice Chair Stoughton moved to adopt the agenda. Member Murch seconded. All members voted to adopt the agenda.

Hearing of visitors:

Keri O'Donnell reported on 2 veterans of the War of 1812 in the New Albany Cemetery. She found 45 pages of pension records and Mr. Yantis' pension card. She located further information on Joshua Montgomery on Ancestry.com, courtesy of his family members. He was involved with the Church of the United Brethren, which was active with the Underground Railroad. He helped found Otterbein College as confirmed by the History of Otterbein University published in 1907. The book included meeting minutes from 1845 when it was first voted on and from Circleville. Secretary Shockey asked and Ms. O'Donnell confirmed that the Church of the United Brethren is the same as the one currently in existence. Ms. O'Donnell believed one of Mr. Montgomery's ancestors – several generations prior, helped found the church. Vice Chair Stoughton asked and Ms. O'Donnell answered that she didn't believe he had family in this area when he moved here. His family lived in Perry and Fairfield Counties. He was a traveling preacher. He had 2 wives and around 7 sons and 3 daughters – a lot of kids. His surviving second wife died about a year after he did. Ms. O'Donnell was working on a Montgomery family tree. He was definitely a candidate for a grave marker.

Clerk Mason displayed the photos of Joshua Montgomery located by Ms. O'Donnell and proposed one of those for the art on the historical marker. She asked the board if they would prefer the younger and cleaner photo or older and more detailed photo of Mr. Montgomery. Ms. O'Donnell believed the older photo was from 1869, a year or 2 before he died. The board observed the similarity in Mr. Montgomery's facial expressions.

Ms. O'Donnell stated she hadn't located pictures of other persons buried in New Albany Cemetery. Mr. Shockey reported that he had reached out to Dennis Keesee, president of the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, who replied he not have any pictures of New Albany founders.

Other Business:

New Albany Cemetery – Historical Marker Application: Statement of Significance & more

Clerk Mason reported that she went through her entire cemetery board file to locate and identify the supporting documents for the historical marker application. She had most, but not all of the documents cited in the prior approved Statement of Significance (herein after, "Statement"). That statement was first drafted by former CRAB member and New Albany mayor Nancy Ferguson. Clerk Mason recalled that the current board was interested in making additions to the statement. Ms. O'Donnell noted she had also additions for the Wagner Cemetery historical marker.

Clerk Mason observed that the Ohio Valley Archaeology Inc. (OVAI) report also contained dual spellings of land grantee Elizabeth "Arnold" and "Arnold." Clerk Mason understood from Ms. Ferguson that the correct spelling was "Arnold." The board discussed an alternate spelling of "Yantis."

On the Statement, Member Murch suggested removing Elizabeth Yantis' age since no one else has an age mentioned except for baby Benedict. Ms. O'Donnell wondered if Ms. Yantis' age was included because it was on her headstone, whereas her husband's headstone was not found. The board agreed to remove the ages as they did not add to the significance of the cemetery. Baby Benedict was instead described as an "infant daughter." The board noted that there were supporting documents for baby Benedict's likely reinternment at the New Albany Cemetery.

The board chose to cite the OVAI report, along with the included news articles, as a good supporting document.

The board discussed the Works Project Administration (WPA) map of the New Albany Cemetery which showed nearly 600 plots, but no indication of who was in any particular plot. The cemetery never held that many persons.

Member Murch asked to change the verb choice of "buried" for stones that were later discovered under the dirt. Buried suggested they were deliberately put underground. The board agreed and described the stone's visibility instead.

The board chose "form" over "conform" regarding the cemetery boundary.

The board discussed the various narratives around where William Yantis was buried. Some confusion was caused because his son, William H. Yantis, shared his name. The board referenced Nancy Ferguson's addendum to the OVAI report where she memorialized her conversation with Yantis family descendants.

Per Ms. Ferguson's addendum, it was possible William Yantis' father was also buried in the New Albany Cemetery, although there was no evidence for it.

The board discussed "Maple Wood" as 2 words as shown in the Statement. John Saveson's history of Maplewood Cemetery only referred to Maplewood using 1 word. The board could not recall any other sources using 2 words and didn't think splitting the name added to the significance of the site. The board agreed to make "Maplewood" 1 word.

Member Murch asked about the 68 to 83 grave number estimated cited in the Statement. The board reviewed the OVAI report and found the reference, but, in the process of looking, also discovered that some OVAI printed reports pages differed. It was agreed to cite an extra page when referring to the OVAI report in case the copy that the Ohio Historical Society received was different than what some board members had.

The board discussed the number of headstones that needed to be recreated. The most cited number was 6 headstones, but Clerk Mason found references to 8 missing headstones on pages 103-104 of the OVAI report. Joshua Montgomery and his wife, Susannah Tanner Montgomery, were listed as needing monuments - although, a monument or footstone for "J. M." existed. Also listed were: William Yantis, William Long, "Mary," William Yantis (d. 1854), and Sarah Sagar Kohn. It was possible those were the 6 needed. The board didn't know why Isabella Baum Robbins' name was italicized. OVAI noted that William Yantis (d. 1854) could have an existing footstone marked "William."

The board asked whether it was accurate that 6 head stones would be recreated. Clerk Mason was aware of the CRAB's request in their report and discussions about the headstones, but did not know if there was a commitment to recreate the stones. She would ask around and check council minutes.

The board and staff re-reviewed the Statement, paragraph by paragraph, to make sure each assertion had a cite. There wasn't a cite for Dudley Woodbridge receiving and owning the land before the cemetery was established. Ms. O'Donnell volunteered to find a source.

Clerk Mason stated she didn't have the 1992 New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society newsletter containing an article about the New Albany Cemetery cited in the original Statement. She had the Fall of 2016 newsletter which also featured an article about the cemetery. Secretary Shockey, a member of the historical society, offered to reach out to Dennis Keese to obtain the 1992 edition.

Clerk Mason asked and Member Gastineau offered to research Deed Book 56. Members discussed ways of getting copies from the Franklin County Recorder and the possibility of accessing the records online.

The board noticed that the assertion of Elizabeth Arnold's sale didn't have a cite. It could have been in the 1992 newsletter. The matter was talked about in the OVAI report, however, the OVAI also misspelled "Arnold." The board opted not to cite the OVAI report for that section.

The board noted that there wasn't a cite for the New Albany being chartered in 1856. The original cite was a map showing New Albany, but no charter. The date was found in the OVAI report pages 17-18. Member Murch read that the city clerk was supposed to have the original charter. Clerk

Mason stated she did not have the 1856 charter, although she did have some neat old New Albany minutes.

Regarding the mention of Landon's Corners in the Statement, Member Gastineau searched the internet and discovered a Columbus Dispatch article about how Gibby's and other restaurants located in that same building over the years.

The board discussed the angry farmer, neighbor, or area resident who was supposed to have plowed the cemetery headstones into Rose Run Creek, purportedly in the 1970s. Clerk Mason did not find his name in the OVAI report or other supporting documents. She scanned the 1972-1979 council minutes and found references to rampant weeds and mowing the old cemetery, but not to any damage, purposeful or otherwise. Mr. O'Donnell thought she read a name, but couldn't recall the source. Member Murch also couldn't find a reference since she started with the board and had been wondering about the story. Clerk Mason stated she had reached out to Nancy Ferguson for more background.

Upon finishing the review, Clerk Mason stated she would clean up the Statement. She asked members to keep an eye out for references to who damaged the cemetery. The 1992 historical society newsletter was still needed.

Clerk's note: the drafted and redlined text of the Statement of Significant is attached here.

Historical Marker Text Review

The board agreed to do a quick revisit of the historical marker text while the facts were still fresh. The board added the line, "Buried here are William Yantis and Silas Ogden, veterans of the War of 1812." This way, the patriots would be listed similar to the Wagnor Cemetery's historical marker. Minor editing was needed to keep the word count to 125 on Side A. Clerk Mason offered to follow up and find out whether there was a commitment to recreate 6 headstones. The board discussed leaving the language open-ended about future improvements.

Clerk's note: the drafted and redlined text of the historical marker text is attached here.

Plan for next meeting

Clerk Mason reviewed the work done by the board on the historical marker application and the work remaining. The plan was to vote on the marker text with the full application. There were supporting documents not referenced in the Statement of Significant which would still be good to include with the application, like the yellow "Founders of New Albany" booklet from 2003. The final bibliography and Special Call box text were still needed.

Schedule next meeting: The board agreed to set the next regular meeting on March 25, 2025 at 3:30 pm. Some members knew they could not attend due to spring break and travel.

Poll members for comment:

NONE

Adjournment:

Vice Chair Stoughton adjourned meeting at 5:16 pm.

Signed:


Chair Mary Fee


Secretary Tom Shockey

4/8/25
Date

9. Statement of Significance- (Explain why the person, place, event or thing to be marked deserves recognition no an Ohio Historical Marker.)

The New Albany Cemetery (1854-1881)

The earliest settlers of European descent came to Plain Township around 1800. It is believed the first real estate transaction in Plain Township took place that year. Dudley Woodbridge acquired 4,000 acres of the United States Military Lands (the southwest quarter of Plain Township) from the United States President John Adams.ⁱ The earliest pioneers included Joseph Scott, John Huffman (also spelled Hoffman) and the Baughman, Hills, Byington, Waters, Yantis (also spelled Yantes), Williams, Kohn, McCurdy, Smith, Triplett, and Moore families.ⁱⁱ

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Plain Township in Franklin County, Ohio was organized in 1810. It included present day Jefferson Township until 1815 and Blendon Township until 1816.ⁱⁱⁱ

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In May of 1837, Noble Landon and William Yantis, laid out the town of New Albany.^{iv} 2nd reference. The main road, High Street, was the boundary line between their two properties. While Landon and Yantis founded and platted the town together, they were not partners in their real estate venture. Landon owned the lots on the east side of High Street and Yantis owned lots on the west side. [OVAI Report](#)

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In 1838, the first post office was established in New Albany and the post office was called Hope. Noble Landon was commissioned as the first postmaster on May 15, 1838 and served until 1853.^v

The oldest headstone in the New Albany Cemetery records the death of Anna C. Benedict, infant daughter of J.C. Benedict, who died on March 9, 1837. It is likely her body was reinterred in the New Albany Cemetery. [OVAI Report+ Them Bones](#)

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Elizabeth Yantis wife of founder William Yantis, died on January 12, 1849. She was buried on property owned by her husband. Her daughter-in-law, Amanda Alvina Closson Yantis and Amanda's son, William H. Yantis, were also buried on this property. The site of these burials was soon to become part of the "New Albany Cemetery."^{vii}

On July 29, 1854, Jesse Kohn, an adjacent landowner, sold 0.20 acres to Township Trustees Jacob Ury, Daniel Horlocker, and John McCurdy for \$5.00. The deed specified that it was, "for the use and purposes of a graveyard or burying ground for the inhabitants of New Albany and vicinity."^{viii, ix}

On August 14, 1854, William Yantis sold approximately 0.33 acres to the Township Trustees for the same purpose at a cost of \$5.00.^x

On January 4, 1855, Elizabeth Arnold sold approximately 0.029 acres on the eastern side of the cemetery to the Township Trustees, to form the boundary of the cemetery. The sale price was listed as \$1.00. With this sale, the total acreage of the New Albany Cemetery became 0.568 acres. [\(NA-PT HS newsletter\)](#)

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In 1856, the Village of New Albany was incorporated.^{xi} [OVAI page 2 map copy out – look for better – FC Recorder?](#) The location of the New Albany Cemetery was reflected on the 1872 map of New Albany, Ohio.^{xii}

Between 1855 and 1881, [up to 126](#) people were buried in the New Albany Cemetery including Noble Landon and his wife, Lovisa Landon. [\(CITE OVAI pg 105-106\)](#) Noble Landon was not only the founder of New Albany and its first postmaster, he was a carpenter/homebuilder and a businessman. He established the first business in New Albany, "Landon's Corners," a local inn and restaurant, and donated land for the Methodist Church on the corner of Third Street and Main Street. Before founding New Albany, Noble Landon lived in Licking County where he was the first clerk and justice of the peace in St. Albans township. He was given the privilege of naming St. Albans township. He named it after St. Albans, Vermont, where he had lived as a boy. He had also served as the postmaster of Johnstown, Ohio for a time. [OVAI, p25-26 \("reportedly"\)](#)

According [to](#) William Yantis' descendants, William Yantis was buried in the New Albany Cemetery, but there is no marker associated with his grave. It is logical to assume he would be buried with his wife, son, daughter-in-law, and grandson in the cemetery he helped found. [ADDENDUM vii](#) The headstones in the New Albany Cemetery contain the names of many of New Albany's earliest settlers: Beecher, Ulry, Phelps, Ogden, Ginn, Phelps, Mead, Landon, Yantis, Miller, Staffer, Robbins, Conkle, Benedict, Baughman, Boston, Campbell, and Kohn. Silas Ogden, who was elected New Albany's first mayor after the village was incorporated in 1856, was also buried in the New Albany Cemetery. [OVAI report](#)

On November 16, 1881, Dennis and Ann Strait, Alexander and Cynthia Doran, and William F. and Lyana Taylor purchased 10 acres known as the "Jesse Kohn farm," about ¼ mile south of the New Albany Cemetery and established the newly-formed Maplewood Cemetery Association. The association later turned the new [Maplewood](#) Cemetery over to the Plain Township Trustees. Maplewood Cemetery was on higher land and not prone to flooding.^{xiii} After Maplewood Cemetery was established, the New Albany Cemetery was no longer used.

Between 1882 and 1884, 73 bodies were reinterred at Maplewood from other cemeteries in the area, and 58 of those bodies are believed to have been reinterred from the New Albany Cemetery.^{xiv}

In 1978, the New Albany Cemetery was vandalized.^{xv} In 1979, the Franklin County Genealogical Society "read" the stones and reported "very few stones remain." The society recorded the names which were still visible. [The society found and recorded 25](#) stones at that time.^{xvi}

In 2015, the City of New Albany formed the Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board to lead efforts to restore the cemetery.^{xvii}

Between 63 and 83 graves still remain in the New Albany Cemetery.^{xviii} Additional monuments [have been requested for reproduction](#), because the originals [could not be restored](#) or were missing altogether.

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ⁱ Lentz, Ed, "As it Were", This Week, New Albany News (October 8, 2015).

ⁱⁱ Martin, William T., History of Franklin County, (1858). Pages 220-221.

ⁱⁱⁱ Martin, page 220.

^{iv} Franklin County, Ohio, Recorder's Office, Deed Book 17, Page 278

*** Franklin County, Ohio, Recorder's Office, and Deed Book 41, Page 544.

^v Martin, page 224.

^{vi} Ferguson, Nancy, "Addendum to Ohio Valley Archaeology Report," 2017.

^{vii} Heishman and Saveson, "The Old New Albany Cemetery," New Albany Plain Township Historical Society newsletter, 1992.

^{viii} Franklin County (Ohio) Recorder Deed Book 56, Pages 396-398.

^{ix} Franklin County (Ohio) Recorder Deed Book 41, Pages 544.

^x Martin, page 223.

^{xi} Franklin County Engineer, New Albany 1872 map.

^{xii} Keesee, Dennis, "History of Maplewood Cemetery," Plain Township, Ohio website (April 11, 2002)
<https://plaintownship.org/cemeteries/history-of-maplewood-cemetery/>

^{xiii} Death book and Record of Interments for Plain Township, New Albany, Ohio.

*** See also, Doran, Alexander, "List of Re-Interments in Maple Wood Cemetery From Other Grave Yards, 1882-1883."

^{xiv} New Albany News, "Village Cemetery remains buried." Volume 6, No. 7. (October 5, 1978).

^{xv} Franklin County Genealogical Society, Franklin County, Ohio Cemeteries, Blendon & Plain Townships, Volume IV, (1981) page iii.

^{xvi} New Albany City Council Resolution R-52-2015 (November 17, 2015).

^{xvii} Burks, Dr. Jarrod and Pecora, Dr. Albert. "Rediscovering the New Albany Cemetery: Results of Recent Archaeological Investigations in a 19th Century Cemetery in New Albany, Ohio." Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc. Contract Report 2016-6, (2017), pages 101 to 106.

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FRONT

New Albany Cemetery was created in 1854 from land owned by William Yantis, Jesse Kohn, and Elizabeth Arnold. This is the burial place of many of New Albany's founders, their families, and its earliest settlers and residents. Buried here are William Yantis and Silas Ogden, veterans of the War of 1812.

Because Rose Run Creek often flooded, water from the creek washed into the New Albany Cemetery. Realizing a better location was needed, Maplewood Cemetery was created in 1881 a short distance south of here. Approximately 19 people were reinterred from the New Albany Cemetery to the Maplewood Cemetery. Not long after, the New Albany Cemetery was no longer utilized.

By 1970, many monuments were broken, displaced, or missing and few records existed for the individuals buried in the cemetery. The cemetery had been neglected.

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BACK

In 1979, the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society retrieved several monuments from the creek. The Franklin County Genealogical Society recorded all legible names.

In 2015, the New Albany Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board was formed to help guide the city's restoration of the cemetery. After extensive research and geographic imaging, the advisory board determined 134 individuals were originally interred here. By 2018, the advisory board identified the names of 68 individuals still buried in the cemetery. The oldest headstone is from 1837, predating the founding of the cemetery.

While several headstones were cleaned and reset, the remaining headstones were repaired and placed carefully where no existing gravesites were located. Twelve additional headstones were reproduced because the originals were missing or could not be restored.

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