



CEMETARY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Fee at 3:38 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mary Fee, Chair	P
Ron Stoughton, Vice Chair	P
Thomas Shockey, Secretary	P
Diana Jacobs	A
Elizabeth Murch	P
Jeffrey Gastineau	P
Nichole Foreman	P

Guests present: Keri O'Donnell

Staff present: Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Chair Fee moved to approve the March 24, 2026, meeting minutes. Member Murch seconded. All members voted to approve the March 24, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted.

Chair Fee moved to approve the April 21, 2026, meeting minutes. Member Murch seconded. All members voted to approve the April 21, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted.

Approval of the Agenda:

Chair Fee moved to amend the agenda to remove item 2 - the oath of office, as Member Foreman had already been sworn in, and to approve the agenda as amended. Vice Chair Stoughton seconded. All members voted to approve the April 28, 2026 agenda as amended.

Hearing of Visitors:

Keri O'Donnell reported on her research on the Benedict family per the attached summary. Nicholas Benedict bought land from William Yantis in the 1850s. His daughter had the oldest known headstone in New Albany Cemetery. Ms. O'Donnell suspected that Hannah Benedict had a twin. The Benedict family had graves in the New Albany Cemetery, Wagner Cemetery, and Maplewood. According to the census, Nicholas Benedict was a shoemaker and, later, a farmer.

Ms. O'Donnell had found a link, via Nicholas Benedict's mother, Hannah Barker, to the Folger family. Peter Folger was the grandfather of Benjamin Franklin. Clarinda Folger Barker was his descendant and the grandmother of Nicholas Benedict. Ms. O'Donnell noted that the broader Benedict family was involved with the Quakers who came to Ohio and were active in the Underground Railroad. She anticipated learning more about their anti-slavery activities and would report back to the board what she learned.

Other Business:

New Albany Cemetery Historical Marker

The board reviewed the Statement of Significance and Historical Marker and made minor revisions.

Member Fee moved to approve the 2026 Ohio Historical Marker Application including the revised historical marker and Statement of Significance text and the photo #1 of Joshua Montgomery for the proposed art. Member Murch seconded. All members voted in favor. Motion passed.

Clerk's note: the historical marker text and Statement of Significance drafts from April 28, 2026 are attached. The photo of Joshua Montgomery is attached.

Clerk Mason stated she and Chair Fee would meet on April 30 to cite the texts, make any final needed tweaks, and submit the application to the Ohio History Connection.

April 21 Rose Run Site Tour Discussion

The board stated they had offered most of their impressions of the site during the April 21 board meeting. They expressed interest in seeing the options from the Rose Run 2 design team. Member Gastineau was interested in the 6-10 inch topsoil removal and soil analysis to determine if there were more graves. Member Murch expressed surprise at the size of original cemetery area and stated she was concerned with protecting the gravestones. Board members agreed with how big the original platted cemetery was and with wanting to protect actual graves. Board members discussed how there didn't appear to be room for 600 burials in New Albany Cemetery. Board members talked about how families could stack burials on a single grave site. Chair Fee stated there were ~8,000 spaces at Maplewood Cemetery. Maplewood hosted 45-55 burials a year and was projected to be active for 90 more years. Chair Fee appreciated the Rose Run 2 tour.

Poll members for comment:

No further comments were offered.

Schedule next meeting:

The board agreed to hold their regular meeting on May 26, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. Member Murch let the board know she would not be able to attend.

Clerk Mason stated she wanted to talk about the recreation of headstones and may have the design options from Deputy City Manager Adrienne Joly and MKSK for the New Albany Cemetery demarcation. If she received them ahead of the meeting, she would share them out.

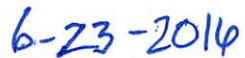
Adjournment:

Chair Fee moved to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Shockey seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Signed:


Chair Mary Fee


Secretary Tom Shockey


Date

Nicholas Benedict

Born in 1810 in Morrow County, Ohio the son of Cyrus and Hannah Barker Benedict. Cyrus and Hannah had relocated their family from Peru, NY to what would become the first Quaker Settlement in Ohio, the Alum Creek Meeting. The Benedict family active in the anti-slavery movement and served as conductors on the Underground Railroad and some of the men even had \$1000.00 bounties.

On the 24th day of September in 1835, Nicholas married Charlotte Roads in Hocking County. They were married by the Justice of the Peace Ellison Martin. They settled in Plain Township, Ohio and had several children with only half surviving childhood. Their daughter, Hannah Charlotte Benedict, was the first person to be buried at what was then known as the New Albany Burial Grounds. The majority of the family that is buried in Central Ohio, their graves can be located in Plain Township in the New Albany, Wagnor(Wagner), and Maplewood cemeteries.

The 1850 and 1860 censuses shows that Nicholas was a shoemaker with the 1870 and 1880 censuses showing that he was a farmer. In the 1850's, Nicholas and Charlotte purchased land from William Yantis.

Nicholas's mother, Hannah Barker, was the daughter of Nicholas and Clarinda Folger Barker, Clarinda was a descendant of Peter Folger, the grandfather of Benjamin Franklin through his sons Eleazer and John. (Yes, cousins married cousins,) Benjamin Franklin's mother was the youngest daughter of Peter and Mary Morrill/ Morrell, Abiah.

Historical Marker Text -- rev 4-28-26

SIDE A – headliners and stories

New Albany Cemetery was created in 1854 from land owned by William Yantis, Jesse Kohn, and Elizabeth Arnold. Noble Landon and William Yantis founded New Albany in 1837. They, along with their wives, Lovisa Landon and Elizabeth Yantis, are interred here. Noble Landon served as the postmaster and established the first business, "Landon's Corners," a local inn and restaurant. Silas Ogden, elected New Albany's first mayor after the village was incorporated in 1837, can be found here along with Joshua Montgomery, a co-founder of Otterbein University. An infant, Hannah Benedict, one of many Benedict children known to be buried in New Albany, was the first person buried at this site, prior to the cemetery being established. William Yantis and Silas Ogden were veterans of the War of 1812.

Continued on other side

(Word count: 132)

SIDE B – street names – cemetery history

Continued from other side

This is the burial place of many of New Albany's founders and earliest settlers, many of whom are historically memorialized in New Albany's street names: Baughman, Beecher, Kohn, Landon, Mead, Ogden, Phelps, Miller, Robbins, Ulry, and Yantis. When New Albany Cemetery was active, up to 126 people were buried here. Maplewood Cemetery was established nearby in 1881 to accommodate the growing community. Many were reinterred to Maplewood Cemetery and New Albany Cemetery became inactive. By the 1970s, numerous monuments in the New Albany Cemetery were broken, displaced, or missing. In 2018, headstones with documented locations were cleaned and reset, and the remainder were restored and placed carefully where no existing gravesites were located.

(Word count: 117)

9. Statement of Significance- (Explain *why* the person, place, event or thing to be marked deserves recognition on an Ohio Historical Marker.)

The New Albany Cemetery (1854-1881)

This subject merits recognition of an Ohio Historical Marker because this is the burial place of many of New Albany's founders and earliest settlers.

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.^{1,2} 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.³

Plain Township in Franklin County, Ohio was organized in 1810. It included present day Jefferson Township until 1815 and Blendon Township until 1816.⁴

In May of 1837, Noble Landon and William Yantis, laid out the town of New Albany. 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.^{5,6,7}

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 1853.⁸

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.^{9,10}

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."^{11, 12}

On July 29, 1854, Jesse Kohn, an adjacent landowner, sold 0.20 acres to Township Trustees Jacob Ulry, 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."¹³

On August 14, 1854, William Yantis sold approximately 0.33 acres to the Township Trustees for the same purpose at a cost of \$5.00.¹⁴

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.¹⁵

In 1856, the Village of New Albany was incorporated.^{16, 17} The location of the New Albany Cemetery was reflected on the 1872 map of New Albany, Ohio.¹⁸

Between 1855 and 1881, up to 126 people were buried in the New Albany Cemetery including Noble Landon and his wife, Lovisa Landon.¹⁹ 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.^{20, 21}

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.^{22, 23}

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.^{24, 25} Joshua Montgomery, a co-founder of Otterbein University, was buried here and his footstone was recovered.²⁶

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.²⁷ After Maplewood Cemetery was established, the New Albany Cemetery was no longer used.²⁸

Between 1882 and 1884, 73 bodies were reinterred at Maplewood from other cemeteries in the area, ~~and 58 of those bodies many of which~~ are believed to have been reinterred from the New Albany Cemetery. CITE OVAI p 18^{29, 30}

By 1978, the New Albany Cemetery was greatly damaged. 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.^{31, 32} After additional research by Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc., it is believed up to 83 graves remain in the New Albany Cemetery. In 2018, headstones with documented locations were cleaned and reset, and the remainder discovered were restored and placed carefully where no existing gravesites were located. Additional monuments will be created because the originals could not be restored or were missing altogether.³³

~~In 2015, the City of New Albany formed the Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board to lead efforts to restore the cemetery.³⁴~~

~~Between 63 and 83 graves still remain in the New Albany Cemetery.³⁵ Additional monuments have been requested for reproduction because the originals could not be restored or were missing altogether.³⁶~~

¹ Bureau of Land Management, US Department of the Interior, General Land Office Records, Land Grant Patent dated April 22, 1800, Accessed March 28, 2025.
<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=OH2100.172&docClass=STA&sid=pakblkk3.jxi#patentDetailsTabIndex=1>, includes related screenshots accessed February 26, 2025.

² Ed, Lentz. "As It Were." *This Week News, New Albany News*. October 8, 2015.

³ Martin, William T. "Chapter XXI. Plain Township." In *History of Franklin County*, 220–25. Columbus, Ohio: Follett, Foster & Company, 1858.

⁴ Martin, page 220.

⁵ Franklin County, Ohio, Recorder's Office, Deed Book 17, Page 278

⁶ Franklin County, Ohio, Recorder's Office, and Deed Book 41, Page 544.

⁷ 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, (2016). Page 17.

⁸ Martin, page 224.

⁹ Burks, Dr. Jarrod and Pecora, page 17.

¹⁰ Horns, Ryan. "Them Bones..." *This Week News, New Albany News*. Volume 8, No. 52. March 21, 2001.

¹¹ Ferguson, Nancy. "Addendum to Ohio Valley Archaeology Report." July 8, 2017.

¹² Burks and Pecora, page 17

¹³ Franklin County (Ohio) Recorder Deed Book 56. Pages 396-398.

¹⁴ Franklin County (Ohio) Recorder Deed Book 56. Pages 397-398.

¹⁵ Franklin County (Ohio) Recorder Deed Book 56. Pages 397-399.

¹⁶ Martin, page 223.

¹⁷ Burks, and Pecora, pages 17 & 20.

¹⁸ Franklin County Engineer, New Albany 1872 map.

¹⁹ Burks, Dr. Jarrod and Pecora, pages 105-106.

²⁰ Saveson, John E., and Yantis, Richard P. *Founders of New Albany, Ohio: Noble Landon and William Yantis*. New Albany Plain Township Historical Society, New Albany, Ohio, 2003. Page 3.

²¹ Martineau, G. "Landon's Corners Restaurant to open in former Gibby's site." *The Columbus Dispatch*. Dated March 31, 2010. Accessed March 28, 2025. <https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/2010/03/31/landon-s-corners-restaurant-to/23211760007/>

²² Ferguson, Nancy. "Addendum to Ohio Valley Archaeology Report." July 8, 2017.

²³ Saveson and Yantis, page 23.

²⁴ Martin, page 223.

²⁵ Burks, Dr. Jarrod and Pecora, pages 26, 102-104.

²⁶ Garst, Rev. Henry, *Otterbein University, 1847-1907*, University Publications- Historical. 1907. Pages 16-18. Accessed April 6, 2025. https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/archives_garsthis/1.

²⁷ Keesee, Dennis, "History of Maplewood Cemetery," Plain Township, Ohio website. Dated April 11, 2002. Copyright © 2021 Plain Township. <https://plaintownship.org/cemeteries/history-of-maplewood-cemetery/>

²⁸ Burks and Pecora, pages 102-104, page 18.

²⁹ Death book and Record of Interments for Plain Township, New Albany, Ohio. 1882-1884, page 3.

³⁰ Doran, Alexander, "List of Re-Interments in Maple Wood Cemetery From Other Grave Yards, 1882-1883." Provided by Dennis Keesee, President of New Albany Plain Township Historical Society.

³¹ New Albany News, "Village Cemetery remains buried." Volume 6, No. 7. (October 5, 1978).

³² Franklin County Genealogical Society, Franklin County, Ohio Cemeteries, Blendon & Plain Townships, excerpts from Volume IV. Copyright © 1981. Page iii.

³³ Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board Report and Recommendation. 2017. Presented to New Albany City Council on May 2, 2017. Pages 8 and 12.

³⁴ New Albany City Council Resolution R-52-2015 (November 17, 2015).

³⁵ Burks and Pecora, pages 101 to 106.

³⁶ Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board Report and Recommendation. 2017. Presented to New Albany City Council on May 2, 2017. Pages 8 and 12.

