



presents
the self guided,
walking history tour
of Lithopolis'
Cemetery

Average walking tour time
is one hour.

This tour was developed by David Wisner for his Eagle Scout service project. David is a member of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 241 sponsored by the Wagnalls Memorial Foundation. He would like to thank all those that contributed to this community project.

① Information Booth

See map on the right for approximate location of each stop. Please notice the veterans' graves called out by the different military markers.

② Dwight Heister (1908-1988) was the chairperson on the board of trustees for the Wagnalls Memorial from 1953-1978. Prior to that he served on the board beginning in 1943.

Trivia Time: Did you know?.....

William Homrighaus measured coffins for John Smith, the cabinet maker, by stretching himself full length within the

③ George Weiser (1853-1936) was the first chair on the board of trustees for the Wagnalls Memorial from 1924-1936. He was a prominent and successful businessman throughout his life in Fairfield County. Dr. Edward Roller (1878-1968) created and planted the Roller Memorial Gardens. He purchased the Greencastle Church and donated it to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He was a prominent historian and socialite of Lithopolis until his brutal death in 1968. He was severely beaten to death by two strangers.



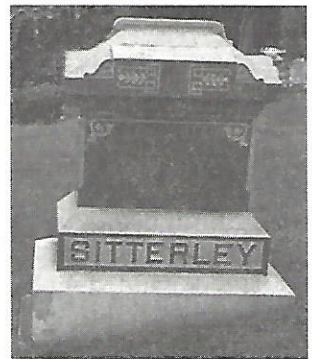
4

Mabel Wagnalls (1869-1946) was the daughter of Adam (1843-1924) and Anna (1846-1914) Wagnalls. The Wagnalls is the most famous of all Lithopolis families. Adam started the Funk and Wagnalls Dictionary earlier in his life. His daughter, Mabel, founded Wagnalls as a dedication to Adam and Anna. She married Richard J. Jones on November 12, 1920. Richard (1875-1929) was an original trustee of the Wagnalls Memorial Board. His success carried over into his life in New York with his wife.



5

Will E. Sitterley (1879-1950) was the first vice chairman from 1924-1932 on the board of trustees for the Wagnalls Memorial. He held the same position from 1936-1950. John Blackwood (1815-1881) was a teacher and farmer who moved to Lithopolis in 1855. He invented many farming implements such as the corn planter that he patented in 1854. He made the first meat grinders in the country.



John was also active in the Presbyterian Church, where he was an elder for 42 years. Frederic Baugher and his brother founded Lithopolis. Frederic married Sarah (1821-1851).

6

John Courtright (1779-1863) was among the earliest pioneers who settled in Fairfield County. He came with his brother from Pennsylvania in 1801.

Their family is responsible for founding Greencastle.

Ida Edwards (1858-1943)

was an original trustee for the Wagnalls Memorial from 1924-1943. She is the only

female to have served on the board of trustees. Ida was a friend of Mabel Wagnalls, and she posed for the hands of Anna Wagnalls in a painting by John Ward Dunsmore.



7

Abraham V. Courtright (1787-1867) was also among the earliest pioneers who settled in Fairfield County. He is the brother of John Courtright. Joseph Olds Gregg (1841-1930) was a Civil War veteran who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in a battle near the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad. On June 16, 1864, Joseph, a corporal in the 133rd Ohio Volunteers, voluntarily returned to the breastworks that his regiment had been forced to abandon. He went to tell three missing companies that the regiment was falling back. When he reached the breastworks, he found the enemy had already taken them and were calling for him to surrender.

He refused and took a heavy concentration of fire. Several shots were fired through his clothing, however he returned safely to his command. Dr. Ervin L. Miner (1797-1869) was one of the first physicians in Ohio. He helped to found the first medical association of doctors in Ohio.

8

Solomon Baugher and his brother, Frederic, founded Lithopolis on November 28, 1815. The town was first called Centerville. However, they had to change the name because there was already a Centerville, Ohio. They chose Lithopolis from the Greek words "lithos" meaning stone, and "polis" meaning city. The stone deposits found around the area made Lithopolis an easy choice for a name. The stone from Lithopolis, freestone, was used in the first locks of the Ohio Canal. Lithopolis also has one of the oldest Masonic lodges in Ohio. Solomon married Catherine (1823-1852). After the deaths of their wives the brothers moved away from Lithopolis. Abraham Harris (1756-1819) fought in the Revolutionary War. He has the earliest tombstone found in the Lithopolis Cemetery.

9

John William Jungkurth I (1875-1929) was known around the community as "Grandpa Jungkurth." He ran a quarry and stone sawmill in early Lithopolis, which produced Lithopolis Freestone. His German background directly influenced his tombstone cuttings. He trained his sons, who in turn trained their children in the art of tombstone carving. Chauncey Stevenson (1880-1956) was an original trustee of the Wagnalls Memorial. He was the first treasurer of the board from 1924-1932. He served again from 1933-1956. On Sundays, he would put the rolls on the Welte Mignon organ for concerts. He married Mabel Church (1885-1969), who was the first librarian of the Wagnalls library in 1925. She was the first secretary for the board of trustees from 1925-1961.

Trivia Time: Did you know?.....

Freestone is a type of Limestone.

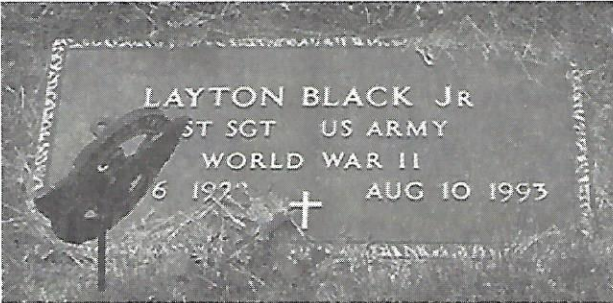
Lithopolis freestone was used for the first locks of the Ohio Canal around the local region.

10

Robert Rager (1932-1993) was chair of the board of trustees of the Wagnalls Memorial from 1978-1993. Prior to that he served on the board beginning in 1961. Joseph Leyndecker (1827-1906) controlled the stone mill where blocks of freestone were sawed into slabs, later to be carved into headstones. Joseph brought many immigrants to help with the work. Some of the stones cut were used for buildings in Columbus. The stones were quarried out of the ravine behind the Wagnalls library.

11

Layton Black Jr. (1922-1993) was a World War II veteran who was known for his recounts in The Last First Sergeant which he wrote. His book depicts the life of a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division. The book tells what the war was like on a day-to-day basis from the eyes of a soldier fighting on the front lines.

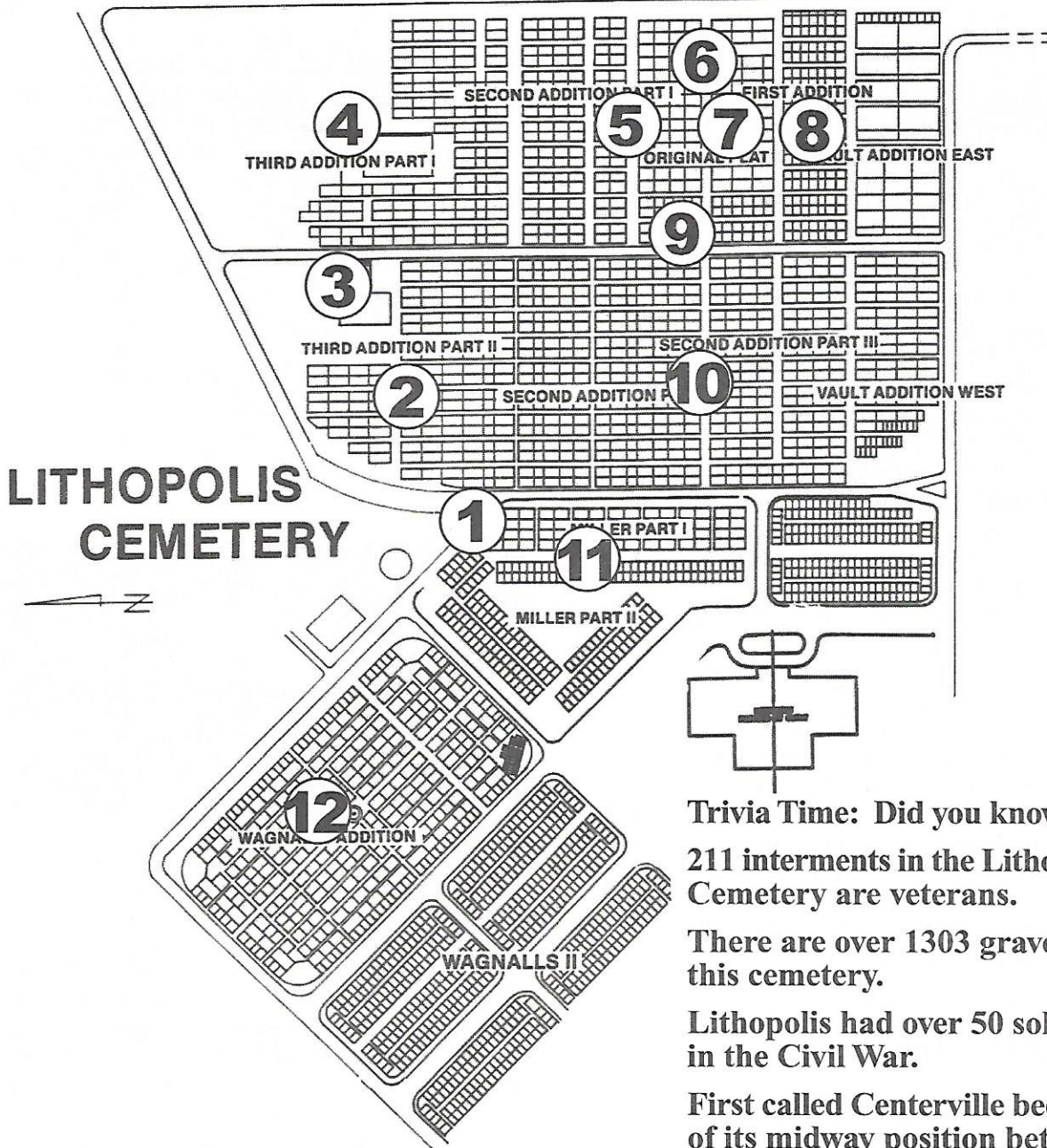


12

Thornton Smith (1914-1973) was the first executive director of the Wagnalls Memorial library. Prior to serving as director, he was a board member from 1949-1959. Thornton was a local farmer and instrumental in establishing the Tri-County Medical Center. He was active in the Kiwanis and the David Lutheran Evangelical Church.

* This is the first addition of the Lithopolis Cemetery Walking tour. At this printing, the tour only highlights a few of the many important people to Lithopolis. For more information please contact the Genealogy Department of the Wagnalls Memorial Library.

CEDAR HILL ROAD



**LITHOPOLIS
CEMETERY**

Trivia Time: Did you know?.....
Lithopolis has one of the oldest Masonic
Lodges in Ohio.

Trivia Time: Did you know?.....
211 interments in the Lithopolis
Cemetery are veterans.

There are over 1303 graves in
this cemetery.

Lithopolis had over 50 soldiers
in the Civil War.

First called Centerville because
of its midway position between
Lancaster and Columbus, the
town was rechristened
Lithopolis at its incorporation