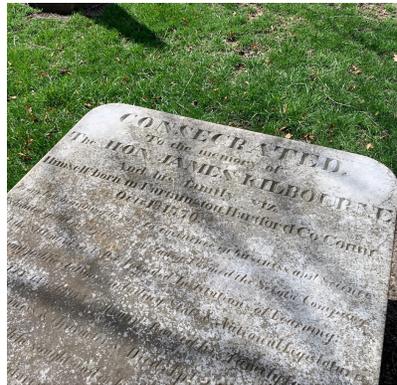
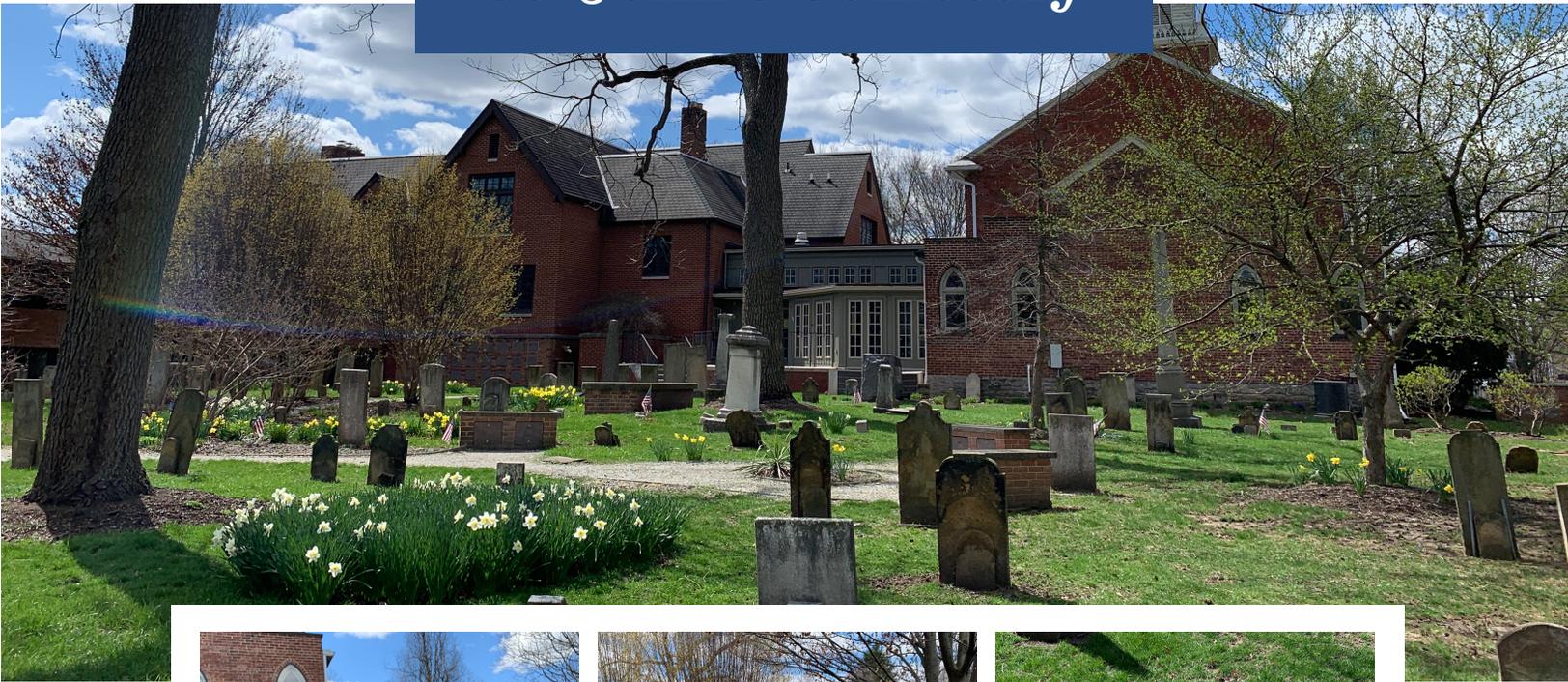


# St. John's Cemetery



## The final resting place of many of Worthington's founding pioneer families

*Please be respectful of the graves and markers.  
Watch where you walk so you don't trip over small stones.*

St. John Episcopal Church and cemetery are the oldest in all of central Ohio, founded in 1803. The first burial was of Abner Pinney in 1804, 27 years before the church building was constructed. The last burial was Charles Edward Burr in 1882, although Walnut Grove held its first burial in 1859. The columbarium walls were built, beginning in 1978, for those who want their ashes to be interred here, since the graveyard itself was full many years ago.



# Early Worthington Families

## Kilbourne Family

James Kilbourn may be buried under the large flat marker in the center of the graveyard. His first wife, Lucy Fitch Kilbourn, is buried near the marker along with several children. He organized the Scioto Company in 1802 to come west and settle Worthington. He was a colonel in the War of 1812 and served two terms in Congress. He was also the first rector of St. John Church. Kilbourn also organized the Worthington Manufacturing Company, by the Olentangy (then Whetstone) River, where diverse goods were made by craftspeople and tradesmen, including textiles and furniture. (Note: sometimes, Kilbourne was spelled without an 'e', i.e., 'Kilbourn.')

## Griswold Family

In the second row back near the stairs to the church, you can find several members of the Griswold Family: Ezra, Ruth, son Edwin and Emily. Can you find the misspelled word? Ezra and Ruth Griswold were members of the Scioto Company and the first family to arrive when the settlers came west in 1803. Griswold was a Justice of the Peace for Sharon Township and established a tavern within a year of his arrival. In 1811 he built the Griswold Inn on the Northeast side of the Village Green. The establishment was continuously occupied by family members until it was torn down in 1964.

## Pinney Family

The first burial in this cemetery was Capt. Abner Pinney, Revolutionary War veteran, who died in 1804. Abner Pinney and his family were the largest extended family to come to Worthington in 1803 with the Scioto Company, with 20 members (of 100 total settlers.) By 1835, the number of Pinney children, spouses, and grandchildren had grown to 78 people! Capt. Pinney's sons, Levi and Abner Putnam were married in a double wedding ceremony in February 1804 to Charlotte Beach and Polly Morrison - the unions were Worthington's first wedding(s).

## William Robe

Robe was a teacher at the Worthington Academy beginning in 1804, as well as the village postmaster.

## Levi Buttles

Levi Buttles purchased the farm where the Orange Johnson House is now located. In addition to being a Scioto Company member, Buttles was involved in the creation of the Licking Company to establish Granville. After being caught in a snowstorm in 1805, he contracted pneumonia and died at age 42. His son Arora, inherited the land and built the pioneer house that is now the back of the Orange Johnson House in 1811. Find his marker in the first line by the back stairs of the church.

## Cowles Family

Rensselear Cowles built the original section of what is now the Worthington Inn as his family home. He married Laura Kilbourn, daughter of James, and ran the largest general store in early Worthington. Look for the tall white gravemarker and small white line of gravestones.

## Vining Family

William Vining, a tinsmith, was a Scioto Company member. He purchased the farm lot west of the Olentangy River where the Jeffers Mound, a Hopewell earthwork, stands. The farm remained in the Vining family until purchased by Herman Jeffers in the 1920s. Vining was Capt. Abner Pinney's son-in-law.

## War Veterans

*Veterans' graves are marked by little round or star-shaped bronze medallions.*

- Revolutionary War: 5 Veterans including Captain Abner Pinney, drummer
- War of 1812: 7 Veterans including Colonel James Kilbourn
- Civil War: At least one; Henry Clay Burr

## Where is the Orange Johnson Family?

Orange and Achsa Johnson are buried at Greenlawn Cemetery in Columbus along with their daughter and son-in-law Francis and Mary Sessions. Son William Johnson, who died at age 22 in 1840, as well as the Johnsons' first daughter Mary, who died at age 3, are buried here, however their stones are not visible. There is a stone for Dr. B.F. Johnson, however, he is not a relation.

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