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Wilson Bridge Road



A LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY

# Linworth Historical Society Newsletter

## Goodrich Pioneer Cemetery Restored by Linworth UMC Teens

(The following article was prepared as a "Linworth Minute" presentation for services at Linworth United Methodist Church. Assisting Linworth's Historical Society in researching the Goodrich Family was the Worthington Library and St. John's Episcopal Church.)

*"a sense of the past -- can give perspective for today" Miriam Utter*

James Kilbourne in 1803 led pioneers called the Scioto Company from Connecticut to a wilderness in central Ohio to create their own town.

Later that year and into the next, more families arrived; and with them, came twenty-four year old Ebenezer Goodrich. A skilled carpenter, he assisted in constructing some of the first homes and buildings in the new village of Worthington. In 1804 along with James Kilbourne, Ezra Griswold, and others, Ebenezer became a founding member of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Having bought land before leaving Connecticut, Ebenezer built his home, a log cabin, several miles north of Worthington on the west side of the Olentangy River. The first settler in this section, he lived alone with no companion but his faithful dog. In his memoirs he wrote, "Unlike the Ohio, the shores of the Olentangy were swarming with Indians by whom our party was received with tokens of friendship."

To serve his Country, Ebenezer joined the army and fought against the British in the War of 1812. Returning home, he married Elizabeth Dixon and settled into the life of a farmer. He was also appointed Justice of the Peace, an office he held for many years. Ebenezer died in October of 1846 leaving behind numerous descendents. He was buried in the family cemetery on his farm along the Olentangy River.

In more recent times, Delaware County employees discovered broken tombstones in an overgrown thicket of brush and trees on Delaware County property. Paul Sandstrom, Operations Manager of the Olentangy Environmental Control Center, after reading in a local newspaper about Linworth United Methodist Church placing signs at pioneer cemetery sites, called Jim Thompson, co-chairperson of the Church's Historical Society.

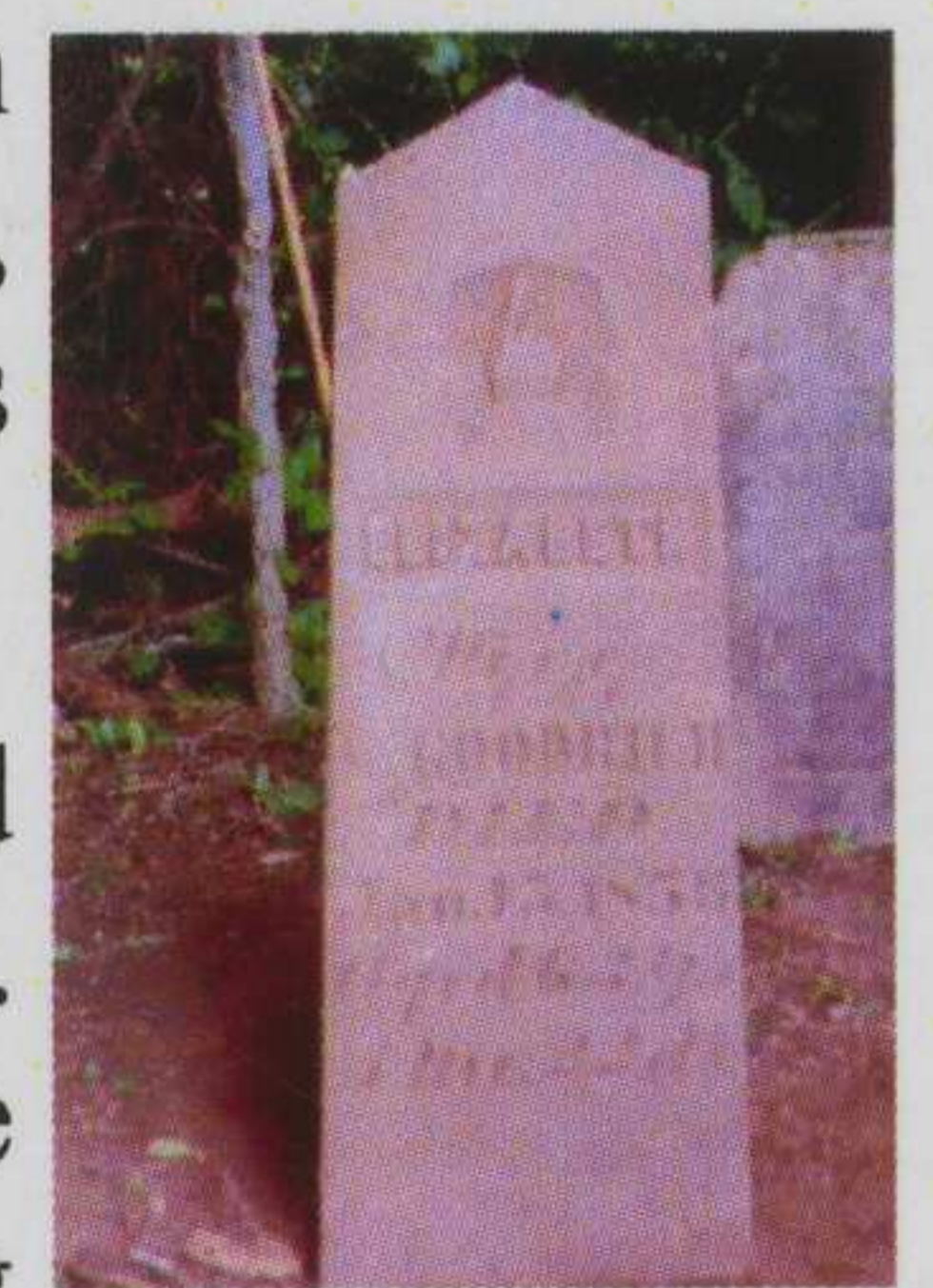


Tombstone reads  
"Ebenezer Goodrich died  
Oct. 15, 1847, in his 67  
year"

A visit was made to the site in the fall of 2004 by Jim Thompson, Roger Perry, Paul Sandstrom, and Delaware County Historian Judy Brozek. There they found five or six broken or damaged grave markers. Only one remained upright—leaning, but in decent condition. It read: "Ebenezer Goodrich died Oct. 15, 1846, in his 67 year." A project was started with volunteers from Delaware County employees cutting brush, trimming trees, and opening up the site. A cemetery sign was made and placed by Ed Pollock and Jim Thompson.

Needing young people with strong backs, Nathan Smith and members of the Extreme Team (LUMC youth) joined in.

Digging and locating one buried tombstone led to another, then another, until five markers were dug up and reset, some belonging to children. The most rewarding find was the completely buried tombstone of Ebenezer's beloved wife, Elizabeth. The marker was dug up by the youth and reset beside her husband's marker.



Elizabeth  
Goodrich  
Tombstone

The Goodrich Cemetery project was and is a way for people today to touch the past, and with a little imagination, see what it was like to live in a world with no electricity, no running water, with most food and household items produced at home. Children and teens became part of a productive family unit at a young age, with set tasks that were of real value to the family. The Olentangy still runs in its banks, but the inhabitants and their lives have changed drastically. A sense of the past and the struggles of former generations can give perspective to today's generations.

Linworth United Methodist Church  
7070 Bent Tree Boulevard  
Columbus, Ohio 43235

Goodrich Pioneer Cemetery Location  
Approximately one mile north of Mt. Air on the  
east side of Olentangy River Road.

## The Goodrich Family and Their Links to Current Times

Ebenezer Goodrich was one of many young men recruited by James Kilbourne to help build his new city in the Ohio wilderness. Most young men at that time had a skilled craft in addition to their farming skills. Being a carpenter, joiner, tanner or cooper required a long apprenticeship to learn the many techniques that were needed to turn out a quality product such as a barrel, sideboard, leather, or house. Women were skilled in the household arts, such as spinning, weaving, sewing, dairying, and food preserving. Most products were still made by hand, so young men and women needed many skills to survive economically and physically in an environment like pioneer Ohio.

Young adults today need skills also, but theirs are further removed from the physical environment and survival in a harsh natural world than their forbears. It is a common belief that our current age has more abilities than the past, but our forebears were able to survive and prosper in a world that they made themselves, not bought at the local superstore. An appreciation for their lives and talents can be a valuable resource for today's generation, as they struggle to make sense of a world that may seem as harsh as the frontier.

*(Linworth Historical Society appreciates the assistance of Miriam Utter, Worthington Room Librarian and Archivist for St. John's Episcopal Church.)*



Sandstrom, Perry, Brozek view Goodrich Tombstone



Linworth Youth clear the Goodrich Cemetery site



Elizabeth Goodrich's tombstone is excavated.



The Goodrich Cemetery cleared



Sign Memorializes the Goodrich Pioneer Cemetery