

Ira Cemetery—The Land

Early property records show that the land which is currently Ira Cemetery was originally owned by Erwin J. Hammond. When he sold 150 acres to William Cranz, 1/4 acre of lot 29 was set aside for a cemetery. This was transferred to the Trustees of Bath Township on September 2, 1863.



William Cranz sold part of lot 30 to Bath Township for \$1 on September 30, 1878. Othello Hale deeded the historic Hale section to the township in 1879. Eventually, a strip of land approximately 52 feet wide was added along the north and east of the cemetery for a total of .7 acres.

There are 218 recorded burials in Ira Cemetery. Eleven of these burials are Veterans, with the earliest of these being Jason Hammond, a Private in the Connecticut Militia during the Revolutionary War.

Ira Cemetery

Ira Cemetery is one of five cemeteries within Bath Township. Although it no longer has lots available for purchase, it remains an active cemetery with burials occurring yearly.

Ira Cemetery has also been referred to as the Hale or Cranz Cemetery.

These names reflect the cemetery's direct link to the early families of the Cuyahoga Valley, a vital portion of the development of the Western Reserve in northeastern Ohio.

For information: bathtownship.org

Acknowledgements

Bath Township

Bath Township Historical Society

Bath Township Museum

Cemetery Tour Committee

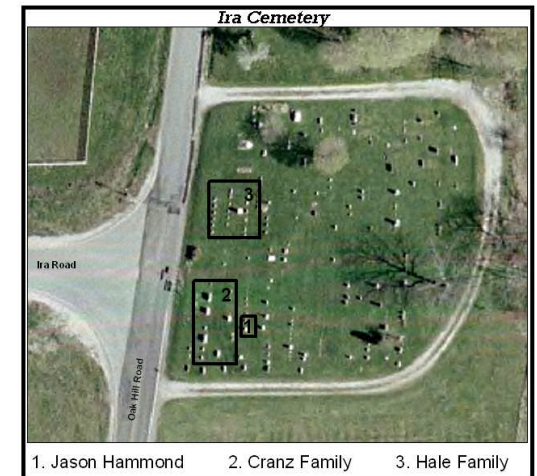
Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Hale Farm and Village

Sam's Club

Bath Township

Ira Cemetery



1. Jason Hammond 2. Cranz Family 3. Hale Family

Located at
Ira and Oak Hill Roads
adjacent to Hale Farm
in Bath Township , Ohio

Jason Hammond

1762—1830

Jason Hammond served in the American Revolutionary War at age 17. Following the war he became a farmer, miller and merchant near Manchester, Connecticut. Jason married Rachel Hale and they had six children:

Theodore, Rachel, Jason, Lewis, Mary, and Horatio.

After a long illness followed by financial difficulties, Jason sold his mercantile business and purchased 1100 acres from the Connecticut Land Company. In the summer of 1810 Jason sent his eldest son Theodore with his brother-in-law Jonathan Hale, to select the lots in Wheatfield (later called Bath Township, Ohio). The Hammond land extended from Ira Road in the Cuyahoga River Valley west to Hammondsburg (Cleveland-Massillon Road).

The Hammond family shared a cabin built by a squatter for eight years. In 1818, construction on a wooden structure

(Hammond Homestead) was started and later completed in 1836 by Jason's son Lewis.

(Jason's tombstone at right)



Jonathan Hale

1777—1854

Although Jonathan Hale was a skillful farmer, brick-maker, and fisherman near Glastonbury, Connecticut, he had co-signed notes for others who later defaulted on their debts. In financial straits, Jonathan left Connecticut in hope of a better life for his wife and three children. He purchased 500 acres of land in the Northwest Territory known as the Connecticut Western Reserve and headed west in the summer of 1810.

Mercy Hale and the children (Sophonia—age 6, William—age 4, and Pamela—age 2) arrived at their new Ohio home in November, 1810. A one-room cabin



and outbuildings erected by a squatter prior to Jonathan's arrival would be home to the Hales until their three-story

brick home as seen above, would be completed sixteen years later.

Son Andrew , born in 1811; daughter Abigail, born in 1813—died at 10 days of age; and son James Madison Hale, born in 1815, completed the family of Jonathan and Mercy Hale.

William Cranz

1820—1895

William Cranz was born in Germany and emigrated to the United States with his parents, brothers, and sisters in 1834. The family settled on a farm near Winesburg in Holmes County, Ohio.

William married Mary Drushel and they had 10 children: Sophia, Pauline, Frederick, Emma, Cornelia, Daniel, Lana, Katherine, Lewis, and Eugene. William became a harness maker.

As new territories were opening out west, William and his brothers bought property in Kansas. One brother became ill and drowned in the Missouri River. This tragedy ended the plans to move west. In 1863 William moved to Pleasant Valley (Ira) and purchased the Hammond Homestead. The Cranz family continued to live in the Hammond /Cranz Homestead, seen in the photo below, until 1970.

