

John Davey

Worked as a landscaper in England before moving to Kent in 1881. With his passion for saving and cultivating trees, he transformed Standing Rock Cemetery, wrote "The Tree Doctor", and started the Davey Tree Expert Company.

Martin Davey

Following in his father's footsteps, Martin partnered in the Davey Tree Co. and founded the Davey Institute of Tree Surgery. Martin served as mayor of Kent, Congressman, and Governor of the State of Ohio.

Jonathan Ramsey

The first African American to be buried in Standing Rock, was born a slave in the Deep South, bought his freedom, and traveled to Kent in 1857. He distinguished himself in the Civil War by serving in the Pennsylvania Colored Regiment.

Zenas Kent

The father of Marvin Kent, was an early settler of Portage County, an entrepreneur who established Kent's flour mill, a cotton mill, a tannery and various other business enterprises, the president of the Kent National Bank, and the treasurer of the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad.

Marvin Kent

The son of Zenas Kent, was a merchant of Kent, Ohio, the planner, promoter, developer, and first president of the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad (now a part of the Erie Lackawanna system), president of the Kent National Bank, Ohio State Senator (Republican), 1876-1878, and a prominent Portage County citizen.

William Stewart Kent

The son of Marvin Kent, was a merchant of Kent, Ohio, the president of the Kent National Bank, publisher of the Kent Courier, and the instrumental figure in bringing Kent Normal School (now Kent State University) to the city of Kent.

Belle Holden

Grew up in Kent and graduated from Kent high school in 1879. As a beloved teacher and principal at DePeyster and South schools, she made a lasting impression on her students. Belle Holden Elementary school was built and named in her honor in 1965.

Newton Hall

Enlisting in the Union Army, Newton Hall distinguished himself by capturing two Confederate flags and receiving the Medal of Honor (one of three in Portage County).

David Longcoy

After moving to Kent in 1830, Longcoy established a brick yard in Kent which produced the bricks used in the construction of the Kent Block and Earl Block.



Civil War Memorial

The Woman's relief Corp., formed after the Civil War to provide aide to the veterans and their dependents, dedicated this memorial to all who fought in battle, including Civil War families who fought at home. Dedicated May 30, 1928. (Veteran's Circle)



Standing Rock has been a subject of intense curiosity over the past few centuries, and with its intriguing position in the center of the Cuyahoga River, it's no wonder Kent is proud of its ancient mystery. Legend has it that native tribes held council meetings on top of the rock, and in "Recollections of an Old Settler," by Christian Cackler, Standing Rock marked a key point in the Great Indian trail and served as a communication post between tribes on their journey. Standing Rock has such a rich legacy in Kent that the city was almost named Rockton, but its citizens chose Kent instead.



Breakneck Cemetery

The Davey Family

Jonathan Ramsey

The Kent Family

Belle Holden

Newton Hall

David Longcoy

Key

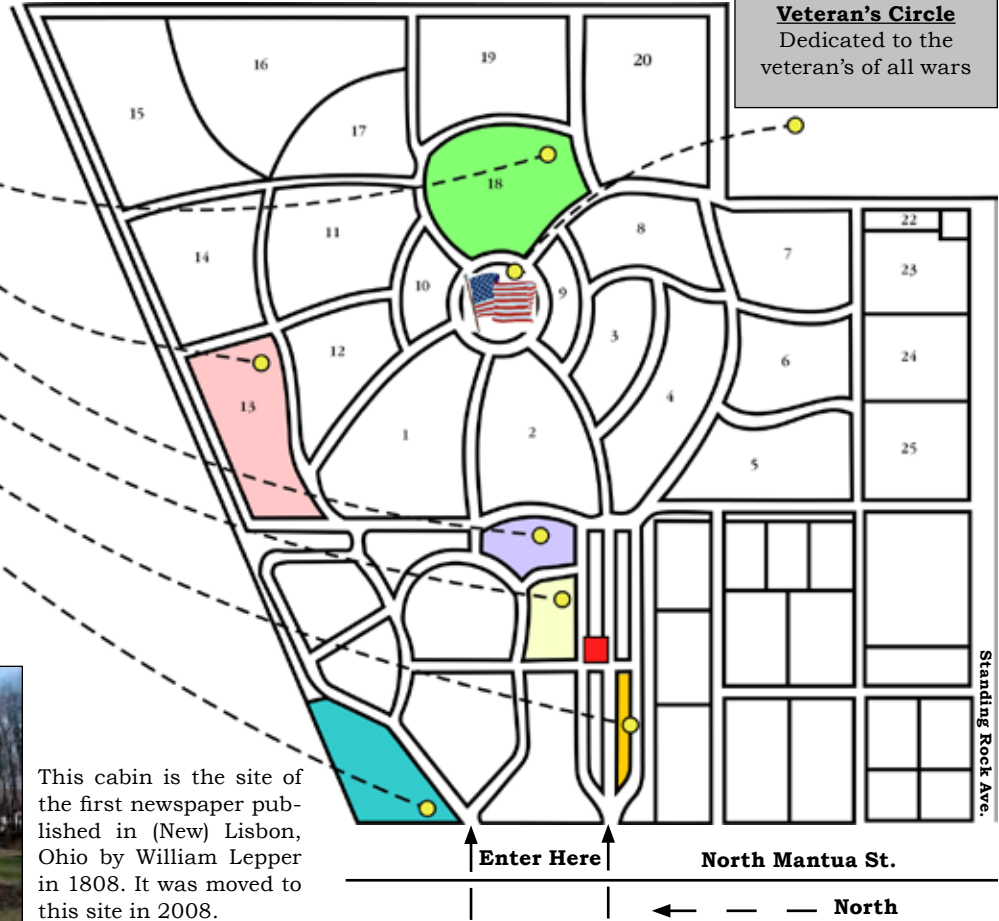
● Grave Site ■ Holding Crypt



This cabin is the site of the first newspaper published in (New) Lisbon, Ohio by William Lepper in 1808. It was moved to this site in 2008.

Standing Rock Cemetery

Veteran's Circle
Dedicated to the veteran's of all wars



Standing Rock Ave.

STANDING ROCK CEMETERY TOUR

This is a self guided tour of Kent's beautiful Standing Rock Cemetery. We have picked only a few sites of Kent's well known historical figures. There are many more founding fathers and mothers to be found in this lush setting. While taking the tour please be respectful of your surroundings.



Kent: A Brief History

Kent was originally settled in 1805, and first developed as two separate villages: Franklin (later Franklin Mills) and Carthage, which eventually grew into Franklin Mills. The village would develop first due to the potential for gristmills along the Cuyahoga River and later as a stop on the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal in the 1830s and 1840s. Leading up to the American Civil War, Franklin Mills was noted for its activity in the Underground Railroad. With the decline of the canal and the emergence of the railroad the village became the home of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad shops, which ultimately led to the village being renamed Kent in 1864 after railroad owner Marvin Kent.

Kent Historical Society
Hours
Friday and Saturday 9 am – 2 pm
237 E. Main St.

Standing Rock Cemetery A Brief History



The Stow Street cemetery (Pioneer Cemetery), a small plot of ground deeded to the township by the Haymakers in 1811, served the twin villages of Franklin Mills for nearly half a century. Many of the early settlers of the community were buried there, and many of the tombstones which were erected over their graves still remain, their inscriptions almost entirely obliterated by the passing years.

A need for another cemetery became apparent late in the 1850's. Almost all the available space in the old cemetery had been used and the township trustees realized that a larger tract of land should be obtained. The land adjoining the Stow Street cemetery was owned by Marvin Kent; why some of it was not purchased and the old cemetery enlarged, no one can say. Perhaps Kent wanted more money for the land than the trustees were willing to pay; perhaps the trustees decided that a more attractive site could be obtained elsewhere. Whatever the reason; the trustees finally decided to buy land on North Mantua Street for a new cemetery.

The first land was acquired on October 25, 1857, five acres being purchased from Roland Dewey for \$400. The land was deeded to Porter B. Hall, John Perkins, and D. P. Hopkins, then trustees of the township. A year later, five more acres were purchased from Benjamin F. Hopkins for \$500. During the following year, the land was surveyed and a number of lots sold. Because of the proximity of Standing Rock, the rugged sentinel of the Cuyahoga River, the cemetery was named the Standing Rock Cemetery.

The Catholic cemetery, on the south side of the township-owned property, was dedicated in 1859. It is not known whether the Catholics bought the land from the

township or from a private owner-records covering the transaction are lost. At all events, St. Patrick's Cemetery and the township cemetery began to be used almost simultaneously.

During the early Sixties, a number of the pioneer families who had relatives buried in the old cemetery moved the remains to the family plots at Standing Rock. The tombstones were moved also; as a result, it is impossible to tell from the dates on the tombstones when the first burials were made in the new cemetery. It is definitely known, however, that by 1865, Standing Rock was the leading cemetery of the township.

A History of Kent
Karl H. Grismer

Breakneck Cemetery

Breakneck Creek Cemetery was originally located somewhere near, but not that close to Breakneck Creek, however at some point the cemetery became known as Breakneck Cemetery. It was formerly known as Shirliff Family Cemetery.

The first burial was in 1839; last burial in 1916. The cemetery was located on a hill about 300 yards from Rte. 59 and a little west of Rhodes Rd. in Franklin Twp. The remains were re-interred in Standing Rock Cemetery in 1970.

