

Fact Sheet: COUNTY INFIRMARY

History . . .

The *Ashtabula County Poor House* which eventually became the *County Infirmary* was built in 1841 for \$1,670. “The Poor House was described as a fine frame building surrounded by pastures and wood fences. It was a working farm, to which more acreage was added in 1851, and inmates capable of physical labor were expected to contribute to their upkeep. A foreman (later director) and matron oversaw the day-to-day operations under the direction of a three-member board.” *from presentation by Kingsville Public Library Director, Mariana Branch*

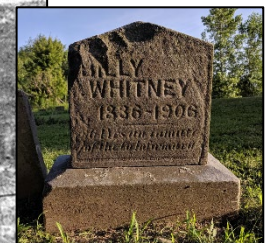
Many of the main structures stood until the 1970’s when the Infirmary was finally condemned and demolished, and the current County Nursing Home was constructed on land across the road.



Ashtabula County Nursing Home

Have you heard of Penny Billy?

He was an eccentric inmate of the Poor House from the age of 6 until his death in 1906 at the age of 70. He is buried in Potter’s Field next to Lulu Falls Cemetery where you can still find his headstone. The only headstone in Potter’s Field with an etched name. Every day he would walk to the Post Office in downtown Kingsville and retrieve the mail for the Infirmary. He did this diligently for 50 years. His real name was William Whitney but was called “Penny Billy” because it was said he had a habit of asking for pennies from strangers on his trips to Ashtabula City.



Want to know more?

On October 22nd, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Simak Welcome Center, Library Director, Mariana Branch, will give a detailed history of the County Infirmary, “Through Tragedy and Triumph”. Come learn about some of the interesting characters that called Kingsville home!

for more information
check out www.kingsvilletwp.org

KINGSVILLE TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY, OH

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