

**1860**

Context:

On May 11, 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state.

On February 14, 1859, Oregon became the 33rd state.

On August 27, 1859, the American oil industry began when the first oil well was drilled by Edwin Drake near Titusville.

On December 20, 1860 South Carolina succeeded from the United States of America.

**The population of Pine Township reached 1,220.**

**A new schoolhouse was built.**

Note:

In 1865, an expansion was added.

**1861**

Context:

On January 29, 1861, Kansas became the 34th state.

Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated 16th President on March 4, 1861.

Before the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln seven states had declared their secession from the Union (the United States). Four additional southern states followed in 1861.

The southern states that succeeded established the Confederate States of America on February 4, 1861. Jefferson Davis became President of the Confederate States.

On April 12, 1861, Civil War hostilities began when Cadets from the Citadel (a military college) fired upon Fort Sumter (occupied by Union forces) in the harbor of Charleston, SC.

### **The Underground Railroad was supported throughout the area.**

Note:

The Underground Railroad was a loose grouping of people who helped runaway slaves. It had no central organization and functioned by word of mouth. They provided directions, food and lodging for escaped slaves as they moved north.

People throughout the area were supporters of the Underground Railroad; Mercer became a significant stopping point for the slaves. The Pew family farm was a "station" on the railway. It is believed the Joseph Newton Pew and his siblings were personally involved in moving the escaped slaves.

In 1825, a number of these escaped slaves had used the "underground railroad" to reach Sandy Lake and settled in a fugitive slave town known as Liberia (now Stoneboro). Liberia had been established by the Travis family, a family of free African-Americans. Although its existence was known to slave catchers and was raided by them, it continued to operate for many years.

After the Fugitive Slave Act of 1849/50, most of the population of Liberia fled to Canada to become legal free citizens. The remains of the Liberia cemetery are located across from the main gate of Stoneboro Fairgrounds.

### **Mercer County was one of the earliest areas of the state to support the Union in the Civil War.**

Note:

Rev. W. T. McAdam, pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, delivered a lecture entitled "Our National Troubles," at a meeting at the Mercer County Courthouse. He argued against the secession of the South and stated:

...those who were in rebellion against the government must be subdued  
"the federal laws must be enforced, cost what it will."

His speech was published and supported by the newspaper, the *Mercer County Whig* as representing the local stand on the issue.

### **Regiments were recruited in Mercer County to serve in the war.**

Note:

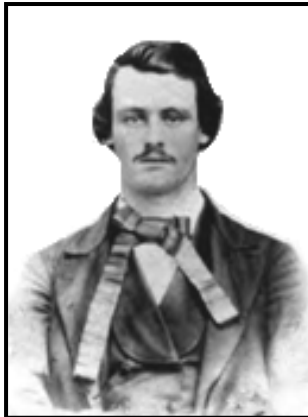
Company E (which included men from the Liberty and Plane Grove areas organized by Capt Samuel Bently) joined the 100th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment known as the Round Head Regiment.

The Fifty-seventh Regiment was mainly recruited in Mercer County. Its commanding officers, Colonel William Maxwell and Lieutenant Colonel E. W. Woods, were both from that county.

The 39th, 76th, 77th, 83rd, 100th, 134th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 145th, 169th, and the 211th Regiments all recruited in Mercer County.

**Francis Marion Craig was the first soldier from Mercer County to die in the Civil War.**

Vita: Francis Marion Craig



Francis Marion Craig was born in North Liberty. (See 1883)

Craig was educated at Westminster College for two years, then learned the printing trade and became typesetter for the Westminster Herald, a United Presbyterian magazine that was printed in New Wilmington.

On July 22, 1861 at 22 years old, he enlisted in Co. A 62nd regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, infantry as a Corporal. He was unmarried.

He was promoted to Sergeant and then elected to second lieutenant, He died at Battle of Fredericksburg on December 12, 1862 Fredericksburg before the commission of promotion reached him.

**1862**

**John R. Cunningham, grandson of Valentine Cunningham, returned to Pine Grove.**

Note:

J. R. Cunningham was born and raised in Pine Grove. In 1852, Cunningham left home and lived in Wisconsin and Minnesota for about ten years before returning to Pine Grove.

In 1863, he enlisted in Company H, Fifth Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery in the 245<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

After returning from the war, he opened a sawmill and lumbering business which he operated for thirty years.



**1864**

**The Rev. William T. Dickson began a private academic, select school.**

Note:

The Rev. William T. Dickson became the Pastor of the Presbyterian church of Pine Grove in 1864.

Early on, the Presbyterian Church had emphasized the education of ministers before becoming ordained. These ministers often became community leaders.

Rev. Dickson and his wife began a school, for both boys and girls in their home. As enrollment increased, they used the church as the school building. Their school operated for about ten years.

Because of this school, an interest in higher learning began to grow within the community. This select school was to be the direct precursor to the select school begun by Isaac Ketler. (See 1874-75-76)

**In October, the Erie and Pittsburgh Rail Road began regular runs start through Mercer County.**

**1865**

Context:

On June 20, 1863, West Virginia became the 35th state.

On October 31, 1864, Nevada became the 36th state

The Gettysburg campaign was fought on July 1-3, 1863.

In 1865, the Civil War ended.

President Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865.

The last meeting of the Confederate States Cabinet took place in May. Union troops captured the Confederate President Jefferson Davis on May 10, 1865.

On December 18, 1865, slavery was abolished in the United States (13th Amendment to the Constitution).

**Many returning Civil War veterans returned home and became businessmen and significant figures in Pine Grove.**

Note:

A. F. Alexander, wounded in the Civil War, was mustered out of the army on July 17 and came to Pine Grove.

Alexander B. McKay was discharged from service in the Civil War on July 4, 1865.

Louis Armstrong was discharged from service in the Civil War on June 23, 1865.

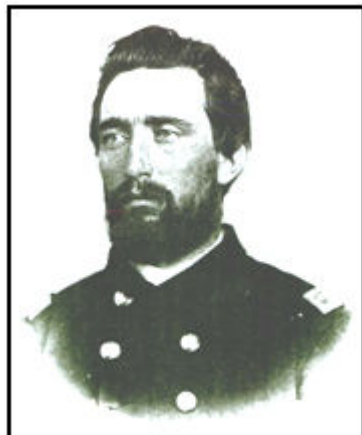
**1866**

**In 1866, decorated Civil War veteran Brigadier General Norman J. Maxwell moved to Pine Grove with his family.**

Note:

Maxwell established a mercantile business known as "Maxwell and Offutt's Variety Store" on Broad Street. The name "Offut" may have been his brother-in-law William Offutt who married Colonel Maxwell's sister Anne Elizabeth. General Maxwell was to become one of Pine Grove's outstanding citizens.

Vita: Norman J. Maxwell



Norman J. Maxwell was born March 14, 1843 on the old Maxwell homestead in Plain Grove. At 17, he moved to Mercer to learn the wagon and carriage maker's trade. In about 1860, he moved to North Liberty and went into business.

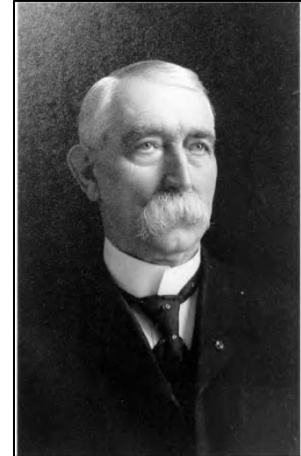
In 1861, he was one of the first to volunteer to become a member of Capt. Bentley's military company. This company became Co. E., 100th Regiment, P.V.V. It became the famous Roundhead Regiment of the Ninth Army Corps.

Major Maxwell assumed command of the unit after Colonel Joseph Pentecost was mortally wounded at Fort Haskell. Major Maxwell was awarded the Bronze Star for his bravery for his actions in the retaking of Fort Stedman on March 25, 1865. Two of his men were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Norman Maxwell served throughout the Civil War rising in rank. In April 1865, he was promoted to Colonel and became commander of one of the most famous regiments in United States military. For gallant conspicuous services at the Battle of Fort Steadman on March 25, 1865, he was promoted to Brigadier General. However, he preferred to be referred to as Col. Maxwell.

In 1896, he was appointed as adjutant and commander of the Soldiers and Sailors Home at Erie. He spent 12 years at Erie, 3 years of which he served as commander after which he returned to Grove City where he resided until his death.

Maxwell served two terms as mayor of Grove City.



On Sunday, January 13, 1929, General Maxwell died at the age of 94 years and ten months. His body was interred at the Woodlawn Cemetery.

On May 30, 1996, a memorial rededication ceremony was conducted at Woodland Cemetery, and a granite monument describing his military accomplishments was installed.

**Thomas Wilson Dale moved to Pine Grove and joined Craig, Dale and Company general merchandise dealers on North Broad Street.**

Note:

Dale's parents had settled in Liberty Township in c1823. Dale was raised in the area. He had taught school and been a blacksmith. He operated a mercantile with his brother in North Liberty for three years and worked in the mercantile business in Slippery Rock.

In c1828, Craig sold his interest in the firm and the business became Dale and Maxwell. Dale later purchased Maxwell's interest becoming the sole owner. Joseph Sherman McCoy, a clerk with T. W. Dale, became a partner with Mr. Dale, in 1902.

In 1907 when his wife died, Dale was the oldest merchant in Grove City. Showing their respect for the Dales, all mercantile establishments closed on the day of her funeral.

## **In 1866, Joseph Newton Pew began teaching school in London.**

Note:

Joseph Newton Pew was eighteen when he began teaching. Pew taught in London from 1866 until 1869 when he enrolled Edinboro Normal School.

Vita: Joseph Newton Pew



Joseph Newton Pew was destined to have a major impact on Grove City through his association with Grove City College.

Pew, the youngest of ten children, was born in 1848 on a farm on PA Route 58 between Pine Grove and Mercer; His parents were John and Nancy Glenn Pew.

Pew attended Edinboro and studied business for one year. He then returned to Mercer and opened a real estate business at the age of 22.

From Mercer he moved to Titusville where he became involved in the oil business, establishing the Keystone Gas Company. He formed a partnership with E. O. Emerson and formed the Peoples Natural Gas Company and in the late 1880s, he founded Sun Line Oil Company, which became the Sun Oil Company.

One of Pew's students at London was Isaac Ketler. When Ketler began to establish a select school in 1879, he turned to his former teacher for help.

In 1895, when the college reorganized as a non-profit organization Joseph N. Pew was elected President of the Board of Trustees.

Grove City College became Pew's personal commitment, a commitment that was to last through generations of the Pew family and the Pew Trust.

When Joseph died in 1912, his son, J. Howard Pew, a graduate of Grove City College, became the President of Sun Oil Company. At that time, he also became a member of the Board of Trustees of the college and served as its President from 1931 to his death in 1971.

**1869**

**This 1869 Map of Mercer County shows a major north- south highway running through Pine Grove that was not indicated on earlier maps.**

Note:

On earlier maps, the north-south road was shown as a small road going from Slippery Rock to Perrine. On this map, it is shown as a major road extending from Slippery Rock north to Cochranston.



**A new school building was built at the corner of South Center and Main streets.**

**Joseph N. Emery and Margaret A. (Organ) Emery moved to Pine Grove in 1869.**

Note:

Joseph N. farmed and operated coalmines. Emery and his son, D. C., also operated a pottery business together. (See 1878)