

1870

Context:

The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, giving blacks the right to vote (Feb. 3).

The population of Pine Township was 1,235, an increase of 15 over the 1860 census. It is estimated that Pine Grove had a population of 200.

The 1870 United States Census for Pine Township included these business people, professional people, teachers, and ministers.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Race</i>
Barr , John F	Retail Merchant	28	M	W
Black , James H	Cabinet Maker	44	M	W
Black, Joseph	Farm Laborer	21	M	W
Bolinger, John A	Wagon Maker	30	M	W
Craig, Alphens M	Painter	20	M	W
Cro*y, Ornithel G	Harness Maker	72	M	W
Craig, Ranel C	Retail Merchant	33	M	W
Cochran, John L	Tailor	38	M	W
Cunnningham, Emma	Teaching School	23	F	W
Cunningham, John R	Sawyer	40	M	W
Dickson, Wm T	Minister	58	M	W
Emery, Wm P C	Shoe Maker	29	M	W
Johnston, William	Blacksmith	63	M	W
Heasley, Cyrus	Wagon Makers Appr.	18	M	W
Kinder, Joshua	Shoemaker (England)	39	M	W
Marsteller, Benjamin	Minister	48	M	W
McCoy, Wm H H	Blacksmith	40	M	W
McCutchen, J A	Painter	23	M	W
McDowell, Lyman O	Clerk in Retail Store	17	M	W
McDowell, Robert A	Retail Merchant	52	M	W
McMichael, E S	School Teacher	30	M	W
Miller, Franklin	Minister	30	M	W
Nimo, George W	Layer Mason & Brick	45	M	W
Rainey, James	Blacksmith (Ireland)	38	M	W
Rupert, Hannah W	Teaching School	30	F	W
Seaton, Wm A	Blacksmith	35	M	W
Shreffler, Andrew J	Carpenter & Joiner	37	M	W
Van Erman, N W	Physician	49	M	W
Weakley, James C	Mill Wright	41	M	W
Walker, Samuel A	Wagon Maker (Ireland)	30	M	W

Welch, B R		38	M	W
White, Mary	Milliner	29	F	W
Wing, John H	Miller	57	M	W
Wolford, M J	School Teacher	25	M	W

Montgomery Broom Co. was started in a house on Jackson Street by Milton and Nelson Montgomery.

Note:
This partnership was dissolved and both brothers began operating broom factories.

Nelson Montgomery's factory was on Edgewood Avenue.



Milton Montgomery's business was located on Blair Street. It became a major business in Grove City. In the 1920s, the broom warehouse was destroyed by fire. When rebuilt, the inside wall was constructed with yellow bricks, which had been removed from Broad Street when it was paved.

Records indicate the Montgomery Broom Manufacturing Company was incorporated on September 27, 1904.

On March 6, 1918, W. Evert Swartz began working in the factory. Later Swartz acquired the business. Eventually, Swartz moved the business north of town to Brisco Springs.

William F. Frew opened a mercantile business.

Note:
Frew was a Civil War veteran. In February 1864, he had enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Eighty-eighth Pennsylvania infantry regiment.

After the war, he operated a mercantile business in Lawrence County for four years before coming to Pine Grove.

Few operated his mercantile business on the corner of East Main and Liberty Streets facing East Main Street.

In 1900, he established William M. Frew and Company, a dry goods firm (general merchandising, dry goods, and groceries), in which he was the senior owner.

After William's death and through the depression the store was operated by Ed Frew.

Later "Slim" Hassel bought the store from Frew. He razed the store, and built and operated a gas station on the site.

Adam T. and Joseph C. Black opened the Pine Grove Planning Mill and lumberyard at Blair and Mill Streets.

Note:

The planning mill can be seen on the 1873 Pine Township map detail. It is located west of Wolf Creek between the Harrisville Road and the railroad tracks.

In 1883, this lumber mill business evolved into Black and Offut operated by Joseph C. Black (brother of James Harvey Black the furniture maker – see 1852) and W. S. Offut. The business operated saw and planning mills and manufactured sash, doors, flooring, stairs, and other millwork.

After the business changed hands several times, it was purchased by Charles H. Wilson (and stockholders) and named the Wilson Company.

1872

The Shenango & Allegheny Railroad reached Pine Grove in 1872.

Note:

The coming of the railroad marked the beginning of the growth of Pine Grove. Prior to the railroads, the canal system that ran through the western part of the county was the main source of transportation and shipping. The communities along the canal bed and railroads developed before Pine Grove. The arrival of the railroad in Grove City made the efficient distribution of goods and products possible.

The development of railroads throughout the area was fragmented and complex. In these early days of the railroad, companies were being established, merged, and renamed constantly.

The railroad that reached Grove City was the Shenango and Allegheny, which had begun as the Bear Creek Railroad. The Bear Creek Railroad was changed by legislative act April 9, 1867, to the Shenango & Allegheny.

In July 1872, the railway was completed to Harrisville, and in January 1876, to Hilliard. Several branches were built in 1880, 1882, and 1883, to serve the coalfields in Mercer.

On February 1888, the Shenango and Allegheny was reorganized and became the Pittsburgh, Shenango & Lake Erie Railroad

On December 26, 1896, the name became the Pittsburg, Bessemer, and Lake Erie Railroad. (See 1896)

On January 1, 1901, the company was again reorganized and renamed the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad.

Telegraph service began to be installed throughout the county.

Note:

Telegraph service typically followed the railroads. The railroads originally saw the telegraph as a nuisance but in a short time, both industries realized they were natural partners. The right of way that the railroads had acquired could provide a cleared space to run telegraph lines and the telegraph could provide the communication the railroads needed to keep the trains operating on schedule. In 1851 the railroads began to use telegraphy.

Telegraphy expanded very quickly. By 1866, Western Union had become the major telegraph company and had contracts with three-fourths of the railroads. Most of the telegraph operators were employees of the railroads. The telegraphers could keep the trains on schedule and pass messages when not communicating with the trains.

The telegraph had reached Greenville by 1851.

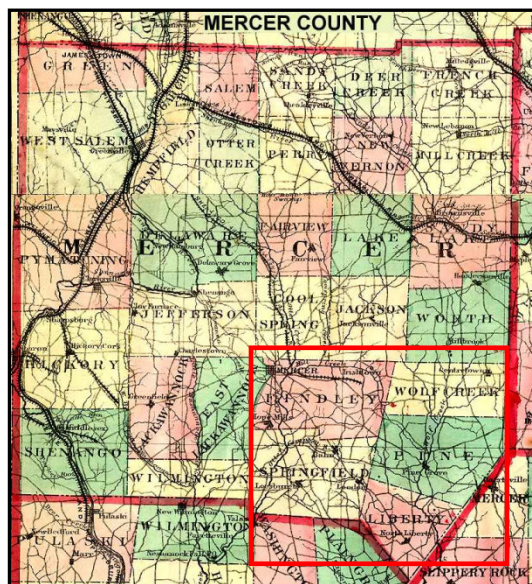
The telegraph likely reached Pine Grove at the same time as the railroad.

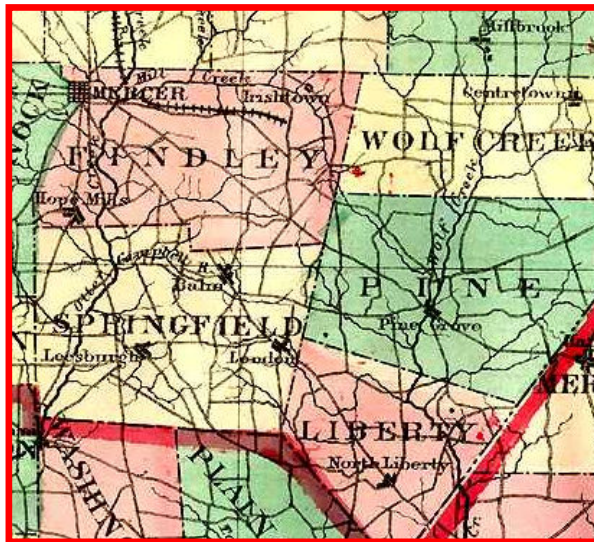
The 1872 map of Mercer County shows the ongoing development of Pine Grove.

Note:

This section of the Mercer county Map of 1872 shows the continuing development of Pine Grove as a center in the southeastern part of the county. The 1869 map indicated four roads intersecting in Pine Grove. This map indicates at least six roads intersecting in Pine Grove. Several other roads intersect with these roads outside of town.

Although the railroad had reached Pine Grove, this map does not show the Shenango and Allegheny Railroad had reached Pine Grove. The railroad is shown as ending south of Irishtown. The map of 1873 shows the railroad reaching Pine Grove.





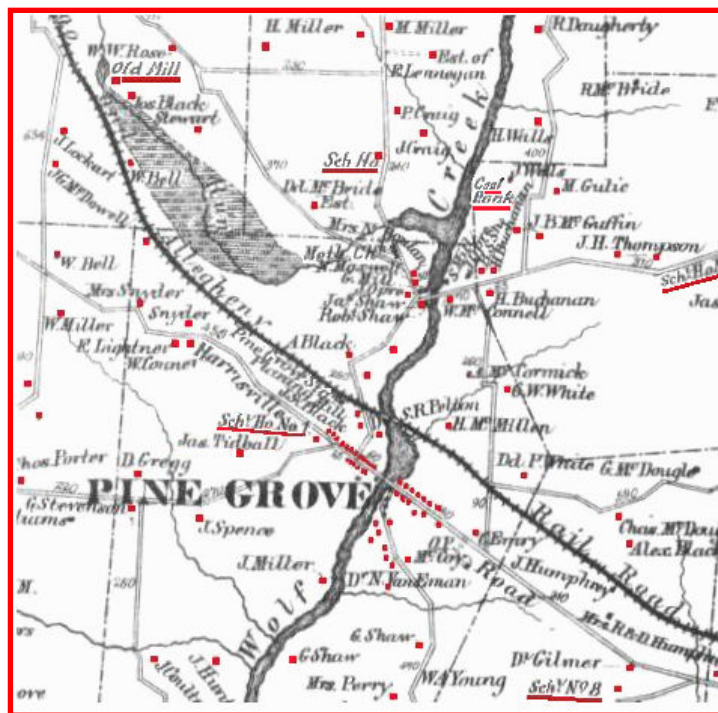
1873

This 1873 map detail of Pine Township indicates the development of Pine Grove.

Note:
Residents' locations and names are visible. The locations of buildings are highlighted in red.

The development of the community is clearly centered on the intersection of the Harrisville Road (current PA Rt 58) and Wolf Creek.

Four schools, the Old Mill, Coal Banks, the Pine Grove Station, the Planning Mill, and the Methodist Church are marked.



Businesses continued to develop as the community grew.

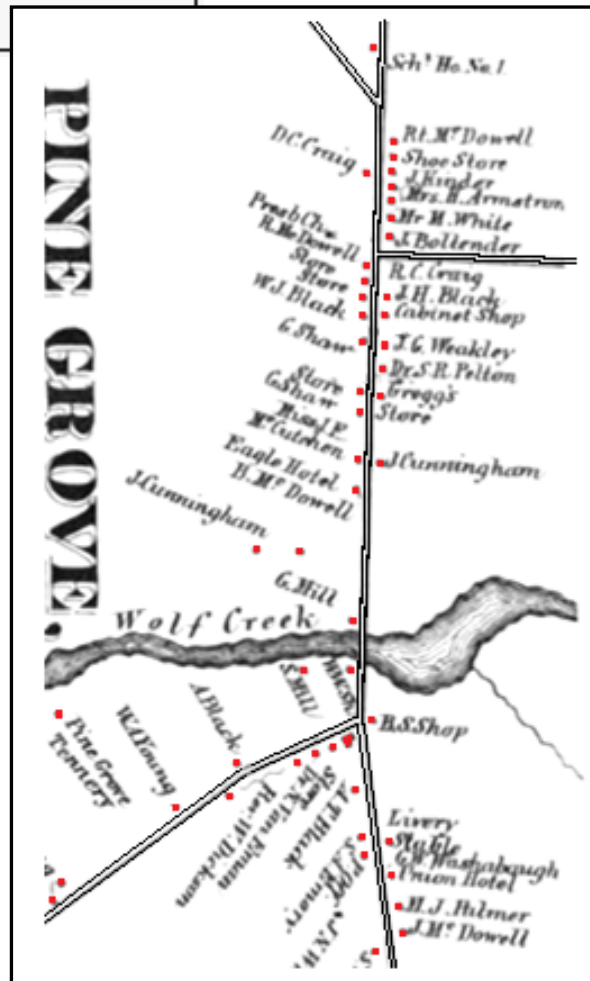
Note:

This map of the business area of Pine Grove was printed in the Pine Grove Business Directory of 1873. The map indicates the locations and names of property owners. Each block represents a building.



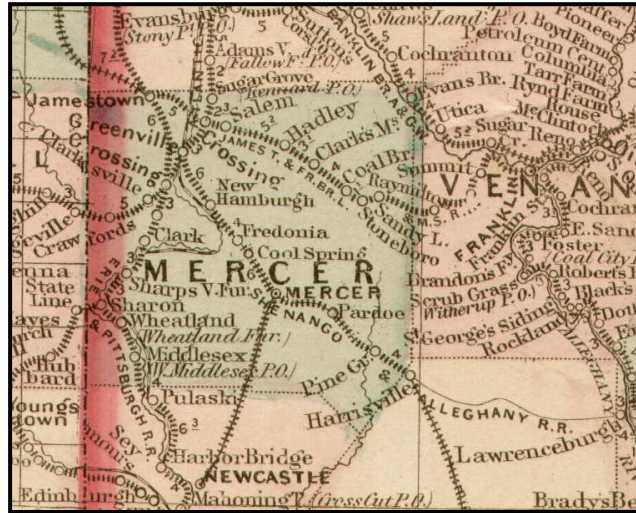
The advertisements on the bottom read: G. W. Washabaugh, Proprietor of Union Hotel, South Side of the Bridge; N. W. Van Eman, M. D., Pine Grove; and W. A. Young, Pine Grove Tannery, Liberty Road, Pine Grove

The view at the right has been computer enhanced and rotated 90 degrees to facilitate reading the names of the owners of the buildings on the Harrisville Road. The buildings have been highlighted in red.



This 1874 Map shows the development of the area railroad infrastructure.

Note:
The Shenango and Allegheny RR railroad can be seen extending through Pine Grove to Harrisville and then continuing south. The "James T, and FR. BR. Line" can be seen extending to Stoneboro and a spur can be seen running south from Mercer to New Castle. The Erie and Pittsburgh RR runs south through Greenville.



John Mills Martin graduated from New York City Bellevue Medical College and began practicing medicine in Pine Grove.

Note:
Martin practiced medicine for nearly thirty-five years.

John Mills Martin registered to practice medicine in Mercer County in 1881.

Martin was a surgeon in the 15th Pa Volunteers in the Spanish American War. He was also the surgeon for the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad for over thirty years.

Martin was involved in other local businesses such as banking and mining and worked with Isaac Ketler in establishing the Select School.

Martin was also elected to the state Legislature five times.

The public school at Main and South Center Streets burned.

Note:
The school had been constructed in 1869.

The burning of this school became a key factor in the establishment of Isaac Ketler's select school.

After the school burned, the school directors voted to build a one-story, two-room, brick schoolhouse. Citizens of the village and the surrounding area were interested in continuing the select school that Rev. Dickson had begun in 1864. Dickson had left the area and with his departure, the school had been discontinued. They raised \$800 to finance the addition of a second floor to the building to house an institution of higher learning.

A new four-room brick school was built in 1874. Two more rooms were added in 1888 and two more in 1892.

In 1876, Isaac Ketler was hired as principal of this school. (See 1876)

1875

Wolf Creek Lodge Number 910 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized on June 24, 1875.

1876

Context:

Baseball's National League was founded on February 2, 1876 with teams in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Hartford, Louisville, New York, Philadelphia, and St. Louis.

On November 23, 1876, representatives from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Columbia met to standardize the rules for football. Harvard, Columbia, and Princeton formed the Intercollegiate Football Association on November 23.

The first telephone call was made by Alexander Graham Bell on March 10, 1876.

On April 11, Isaac C. Ketler opened a "select school" in Pine Grove.

Note:

The establishment of this select school was the beginning of Grove City College.

In 1876, Isaac Ketler was hired as principal of the new public school that included a second floor for a school of higher learning. At the time, he was teaching and studying at the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio. Ketler assumed his responsibilities and at his own expense furnished the second floor to operate a select school.

In March 1876, he distributed a flyer announcing the opening of the Select School at Pine Grove. Classes were to begin on April 11th. This date is listed as the founding date by Grove City College. The school opened with 13 students.

In 1878, a committee was formed to finance the purchase of land and pursue attaining a charter for the school. The committee included, W. A. Young, J. M. Martin, M. D., James P. Locke, James Hunter, and Joseph Humphrey

The committee raised about \$4,000 by selling stock and pursued creating a private stock company, the Pine Grove Normal Academy. In August 1879, a charter was granted by the court of common pleas of Mercer County. When 400 shares of stock had been subscribed for, and 20 per cent of the stock thus subscribed for paid in, the charter was to go into effect. Grove City College states, "...the school was originally chartered as Pine Grove Normal Academy. It had twenty-six students in its first year."

The first class was graduated in 1881; there were seven graduates.

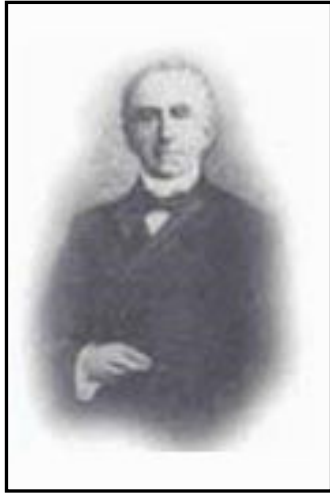
The Academy purchased four acres of land on the James Cunningham farm. The Cunningham farm can be seen on the map detail from 1873.

In 1879 the first facility was built. This building was the Academy Building, later known as Recitation Hall.

In 1887, the school began offering summer school classes for teachers. At the time, it was common for teachers to have a high school diploma.

In 1888, the company sold additional stock to finance the construction of a building on the property. A three-story brick building, Founders Hall, was erected.

Vita: Dr. Isaac Conrad Ketler



Dr. Isaac C. Ketler was born in Northumberland, Pennsylvania in January 1853. He was a son of Adam Ketler and Mary Kyle, one of twelve children.

Ketler grew up in Blacktown and attended school in London. One of his grade school teachers was Joseph Newton Pew, who was to become his mentor.

He began his career in education teaching in Scrubgrass (now Kennerdell). He worked in area lumber camps to help finance his education.

He began his education as a student at the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio. He continued his education at a number of schools. In 1880, he received a master's degree and in 1884, he received a Ph. D.

The Ministerial directory: of ministers in the Presbyterian Church of 1898, listed Ketler's education included:

Wo. U., O., Ph. D., 1884
Ag. C, Pa., M. A., '80
Wn. T. S., Pa., '88
Ord. April, '88, Pbv. of Butler

The Post-Graduate-and-Wooster Quarterly of the University Of Wooster (1895)", Ketler was a member of the third graduating class from the Post-Graduate Department.

Ketler also received D. D. and LL. D. degrees from Western Theological Seminary. He is listed as graduating in 1888 in the "Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America".

Sir W. M. Ramsay was a close friend of Ketler. In 1877, W. M. Ramsay wrote about Ketler and his work in his book, ""The making of a university; what we have to learn from educational ideals in America". He wrote:

Four years ago it was my fortune, on a second visit to America, to make the acquaintance of and come into very friendly relations with a man who held much the same opinion as I ... My American friend, Isaac Conrad Ketler.

Ketler started out as a young man with the ideal of a University ... He began as the teacher of a small village school; he had no money, no friends, no family connection to aid him...

He refused other offers with this idea in his mind.

To found this University he went to a village of 200 inhabitants, called Pine Grove, in Western Pennsylvania, his native region.

Any-where in Pennsylvania, on a railway line, was a suitable home for his University ; and so he came back, after learning Greek at a school in Ohio, to the section of the country in which he felt himself most thoroughly at home. Here he was born, and here he got his first school training.

... he came with a reputation that stood high in Scrub Grass. Scrub Grass was a village on the Allegheny River in the same section of the State of Pennsylvania; and Scrub Grass believed in Isaac Ketler. Scrub Grass had been paying him a salary of 16 [pounds] a month, and offered to increase this salary to 20 [pounds] a month in order to retain the teacher in whom it had faith.

The young teacher saw that Scrub Grass was not on a railway, and could not develop into a University town. Pine Grove was situated on a railway,

In the summer, Ketler went to a school in Ohio to learn Greek.

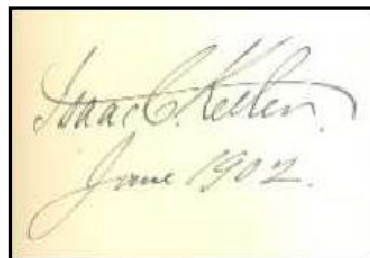
He [Ketler] had seen much of Great Britain, and he had been a frequent "sermon-taster" in Scotland and England, and took much trouble to induce preachers and scholars in whom he believed to visit Grove City and help him there.

Dr. Ketler was a man of strong religious feeling; but his religion was of his own heart and intellect. It was far more intellectual than emotional; and he had a certain distrust, and almost a dislike, for methods of religious influence which appealed too much to the emotions.

In 1879, Ketler married Matilda Gilson (born January 1851), a daughter of David Gilson, a wealthy farmer of London, Pa.

David Gilson was instrumental in the development of London. In 1839, he opened the first store there and named the town London. In 1854, he bought a hundred and twenty-five acre farm, which he continued to expand over the years to include more than five hundred acres.

Dr. Ketler was the author of several books. In 1902, Ketler published "The Tragedy of Paotingfu", the story of missionaries who were killed during the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900.

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Isaac C. Ketler" and is dated "June 1902". The ink is dark on a light-colored background.

To the left is Isaac C. Ketler's signature as it appeared in 1902.

In 1910, Ketler published "The Pilgrims; an epical interpretation."

Ketler was a frequent speaker at conferences.

As noted, he traveled frequently in Europe and was intimately acquainted with and associated with a number of the leading educators and preachers both in England and on the continent.

Dr. Ketler lived on West Main Street near the corner with South Center Street. His home was located just two blocks from the Grove City Hospital he helped found,



It is said that he lived for his work at the college. Ketler's dedication likely led to his death. In 1915, he suffered from appendicitis for some several months and had been encouraged to undergo an operation. He delayed surgery until he could no longer stand the pain. He died three days after the surgery.

Shortly before his death, Ketler wrote to a number of friends and colleagues, as well as the citizens of Grove City. To the citizens of Grove City he wrote;

“Whatever success I have had in life was not due to myself, but to the good people of Grove City stood back of me.”

Alexander B. McKay moved his carriage manufacturing business from Irishtown to Pine Grove.

Note:

McKay was born on a farm near Pardoe in 1851.

He was a Civil War veteran. On February 27, 1864, he had enlisted in Company H, One Hundredth Pennsylvania Regiment.

After returning from the war, he learned the carriage making trade and started a business making and repairing carriages in Irishtown, near Pardoe.

He formed a partnership with D. M. and P. W. Morrow and in 1876 moved the business to Grove City. In 1879, the partnership ended and McKay located a shop of his own on Broad Street. As the business grew, it was relocated to the corner of Center and Blair Streets.

In 1892, Alexander and his brother Robert McKay formed McKay Brothers.

This photograph shows McKay Carriage workers in the 1890s

Pictured are:

Top Row, Left to Right: Clarence McMillan, Mr. Morrow, Mr. Cochran, Harry Miles, Frank Rugar, Mont Cochran, Lew McKay. The young boy is standing in front of the second man is Ray McKay.



Second Row, Left to Right: Bob McKay, Mr. Patterson, Joe Clark, Mr. Ramsey, John Williams and, Half Standing, Walter Smoyer

Front Row, Left to Right: Mr. Bish, George Gregory, Sam Lawrence, Billy Galbreath, A. B. McKay.

In 1897 when the McKay Carriage factory burned, it was the largest industrial plant in Grove City. A new larger facility was constructed within one year. This building burned in 1904 and a new plant was opened on North Center and Erie Streets. After Alexander retired in 1904, his brother Robert carried on the business.

Robert McKay died as the result of an industrial accident in the plant in 1910. Alexander died of natural causes in 1929 at 85 years of age.

Robert's McKay's sons, Ray and Louis, were also in the business. They assumed the business when Robert died. In 1915, the business was incorporated as McKay Carriage Company.

Later the company began manufacturing custom car, commercial, and bus bodies. (See 1919)

W. H. Monroe opened a grocery, hardware, and drug store.

Josiah Cornelius started a brick making business on a farm in Liberty Township.

Note:

This brick making business operated until 1912.

1877

Context:

On December 24, 1877, Thomas Edison patented the phonograph.

The first permanent outdoor telephone wire was strung and commercial telephone service was begun in the United States.

The Pine Grove Cornet Band was formed.

Note:

This band was to continue to exist in various forms for sixty years.

About ten years later the Independent Pine Grove Band was formed with Sherman Black as leader. He led the band for twenty-five years. In 1935, the Grove City Municipal band was begun with J. M. Neal as leader. In 1948, William H. Koenig was the director. The picture was likely taken c1915.



1878

Context:

Karl Benz was granted a patent for a two-stroke gasoline engine in 1879.

On January 28 1878, the first commercial telephone switchboard began operating in New Haven, Connecticut.

D. C. Emery and his father, Joseph N. Emery started J. N. Emery and Son.

Note:

The Emerys operated both a Pottery and a carriage and harness business under this company name.

Previously Emery had been in the coal business with his father.

In April, they began production of glazed and unglazed stoneware, terra cotta tile, pipe, and other products. J. N. Emery and Son was a wholesaler of their products.

Joseph N. Emery retired in 1883 and the name was changed to Emery Brothers. The brothers were D. C. Emery and J. O. Emery. In 1885, E. F. Porter became a partner in the firm. The firm remained in business until November 1906.

1879

Context:

Thomas Edison produced the first reliable, long-lasting light bulb.

On December 12, 1879 Pine Grove Women's Christian Temperance Union formed by Narcissa White-Kennedy.

Note:

The Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized to support total abstinence from the use of alcohol. By the turn of the century, the organization had expanded its involvement into other social and political issues.

The organization supported the passing and ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment (1919), outlawing alcohol. (The amendment was repealed in 1933.)

The Grove City Chapter continued to function 1980s.

East Main Presbyterian Church was begun in September.

Note:

On April 6, 1879, Rev. William B. Barr, from the Presbyterian Church of Springfield, conducted the first service. On September 10, 1879, the congregation was formally organized as the Pine Grove Presbyterian Church.

In 1883, when Pine Grove was incorporated as Grove City, the Pine Grove Presbyterian Church changed its name to the First United Presbyterian Church of Grove City.

In May of 1883, the congregation built a church on Main Street; this church was destroyed by fire in May of 1892. By October of 1893, a new red brick church building had been erected. In c1905 this facility was sold to Grove City College and became Ivy Chapel. (See 1905)



On July 11, 1909, a new church was dedicated. It was built from Hummelstone brown stone in the Old English Gothic style.

The postcard picture below was taken after 1913. (Note school building at left. This school building served as a high school, a junior high school and as a middle school. It was in use until 2011 when it was

replaced by a new middle school facility.)

In 1953, a new educational wing was added.

In 1958, the name of the church was changed to the East Main United Presbyterian Church.

In July 1961, the sanctuary was remodeled. Another addition, Fellowship Hall, was added in 1990.

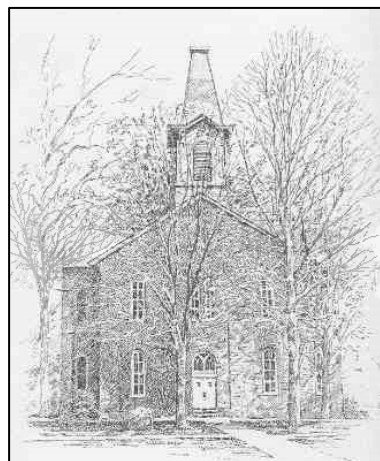
In 2010, an interior remodeling project including a welcome center was completed.



Grove City College built its first building.

Note:

The first building built by Grove City College was the Academy Building, later known as Recitation Hall. It was designed by Frank Stewart who was a local architect.



This building served the college until 1958 when the Trustees decided to raze the building.