

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.

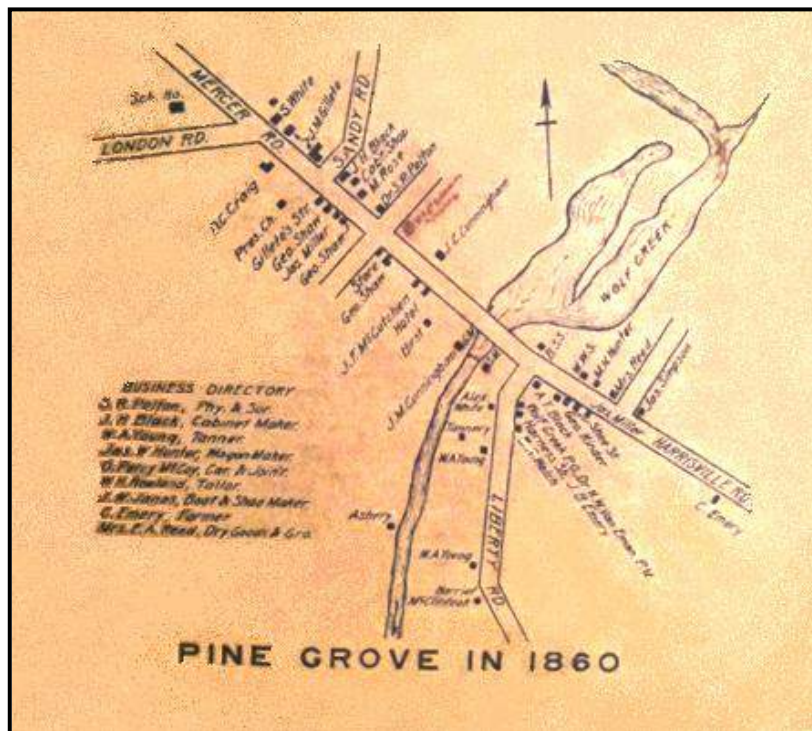
On December 20, 1860 South Carolina succeeded from the United States of America.

The population of Pine Township reached 1,220.

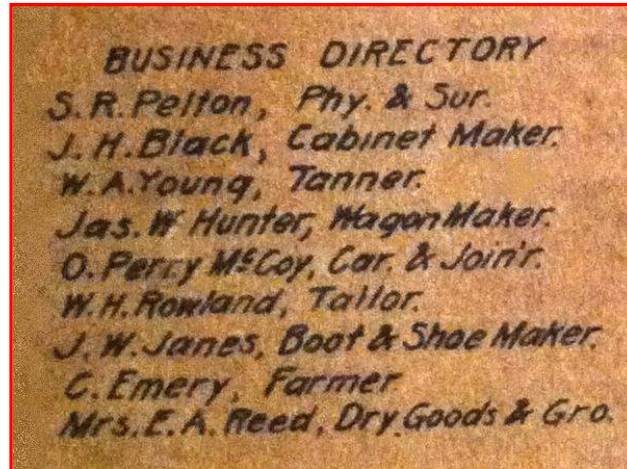
Pine Grove in 1860.

Note:

This is a computer enhanced map of Pine Grove in 1860 compiled by L. E. Burnside and Company, Civil and Mining Engineers.



This detail from the map highlights the Business Directory written on the map.



1861

Context:

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

Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated 16th President on March 4.

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. The "conductors" provided directions, food and lodging for escaped slaves as they moved north.

Many 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. (See Background – Mercer County)

After the Fugitive Slave Act of 1849/50, most of the population of Liberia fled to Canada to become legal free citizens.

Mercer County was one of the earliest areas of the state to support the Union during 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 as the prevailing opinion by the newspaper, the *Mercer County Whig*.

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 the county. In addition, 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 245th Regiment.

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



1864

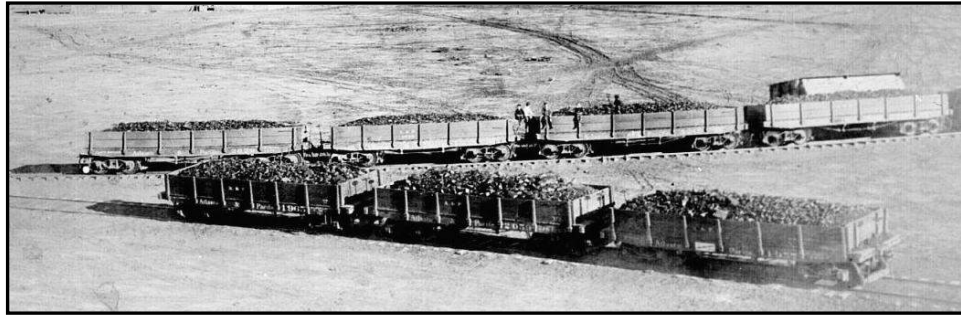
The Bear Creek Railroad and the Mercer Mining and Manufacturing Company had their beginnings. (See 1872, 1880)

Note:

In 1864, The Mercer Coal and Manufacturing Company opened the Pardoe Mine. The Mercer Mining & Manufacturing Company had been formed by an investment group and was interested in developing coal mining in the Pardoe area.

In March 1865, the Bear Creek Railroad was incorporated. This short railway (21 miles long) was established to move coal from the Pardoe mines to Shenango (a small community and railroad yard located south of Greenville) to be transferred to other railroads and/or the Erie Extension Canal. On April 9, 1867, The Bear Creek Railroad became the Shenango & Allegheny. During 1868-1869, the railroad was completed. In 1872 the Shenango & Allegheny road was extended to Pine Grove. The Shenango & Allegheny eventually part of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad.

This photograph (not taken in western Pennsylvania) illustrates what railroad coal cars looked like at the time. They were essentially flat cars that had been adapted by adding wooden sides to the car.



In 1868, Benjamin Niblock, James M. Bredin, and Thompson Kyle formed Niblock, Bredin, & Kyle. Niblock, Bredin, & Kyle acquired the rights to fifty thousand acres of land, including land in Mercer County and in Pine Township, to lease as coal lands. They believed a four-foot vein of coal (known as the Harrisville Vein) ran through the area and was suitable for profitable mining. They began to lease the land to be mined. The lessor agreed to pay ten cents per ton of coal, the typical price at the time.

Early on Niblock, Bredin & Kyle became associated with the Mercer Mining & Manufacturing Company. Mercer Mining & Manufacturing Company's principal mines were at Pardoe (the Pardoe and the Monkey Run Mines), Harrisville, and New Hope.

The community of Pardoe was laid out in 1869 by the Mercer Mining and Manufacturing Company. The town, as well as the mines, was named for William and Hunter Pardoe. The Pardoe brothers were the owners of the land.

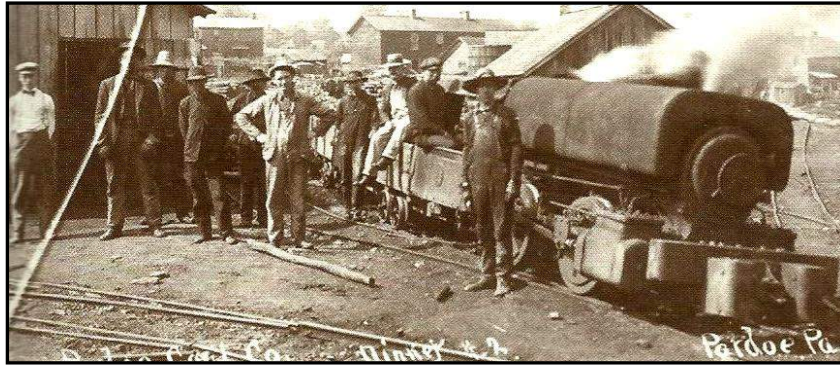
Pictured is Mercer Mining and Manufacturing Company stock issue number 174 of fourteen shares of fifty dollars each, dated March 23, 1870. Stock certificate number 50 for eighty shares is dated October 1869.



In 1890, The Mercer Mining Co. was leased to four Filer brothers.

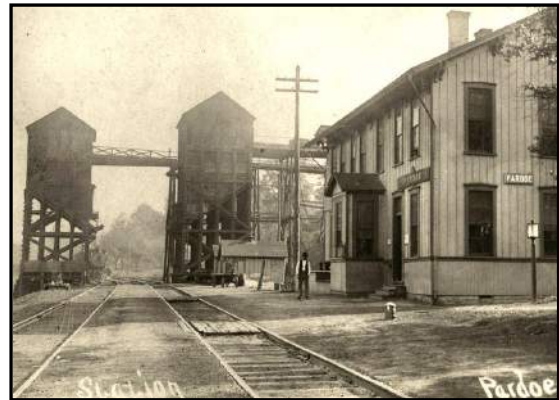
On January 1, 1905, James Westerman and Enoch Filer incorporated the Westerman-Filer Company. On January 1, 1909, the Pardoe Coal Company was incorporated.

At one time, the Pardoe Mine was the largest mining company in the county.



This photograph shows a group of miners at the Pardoe Mine # 2.

Shown is the railroad station at Pardoe



By the 1920s, the mine had become "mined out". It was no longer capable of producing coal at a profitable rate. During this time, Pietro Caruso and friends continued to mine it for a few years. It operated until 1927. In 1929, it was sold to George J. and Minnie Shaffer at a sheriff's sale.

The coal mining at Pardoe was the beginning of the coal-mining era in the Pine Grove area.

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 denomination had emphasized the education of ministers before becoming ordained. Because of their education, these ministers often became community leaders.

In a history of Grove City College written by Isaac Ketler in 1902 for the United States Bureau of Circular, Ketler wrote:

In 1864, Rev William T Dickson became pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Pine Grove and soon after he and his excellent wife undertook to maintain a private school in which the young might receive instruction in the common branches and also in academical [sic] studies. They continued this work with but slight interruption for nearly ten years. During this time great good was done an educational sentiment was awakened in the community students were prepared

for college and others with a fairly rudimentary education were fitted to become good citizens.

There is no doubt but that to their work is largely due the interest which the older families in the community have for years manifested in the establishing and maintaining of an institution of learning in their midst.

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

This school was to 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:

When the National Guard, Craig Post, G. A. R. No. 325 was organized in 1883 there were 38 Civil War veterans as Charter Members of the post. (See 1883)

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 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.

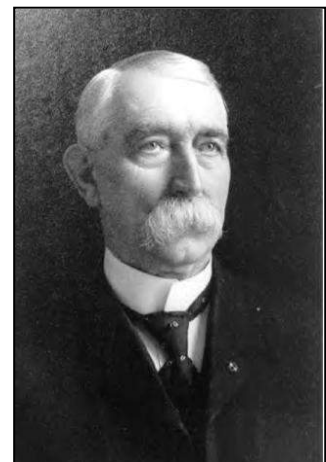
In 1861, he was one of the first to volunteer for Capt. Bentley's military company. This company became Co. E., 100th Regiment, P.V.V. gaining fame as the Roundhead Regiment of the Ninth Army Corps.

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. Many of his contemporaries felt he also should have received 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, Roundhead Regiment of the Ninth Army Corps. 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 served 12 years at Erie. For three years he served as commander. After completing his service at Erie, he returned to Grove City where he resided until his death.

Maxwell was active in community affairs and 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 business 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.

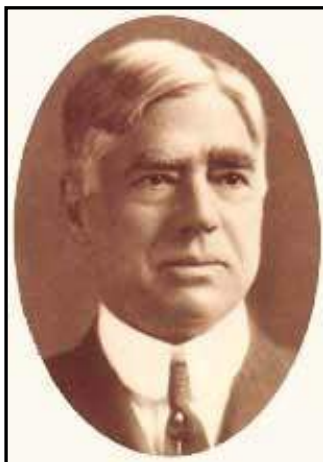
In 1907 when his wife died, Dale was the oldest merchant in Grove City. Showing their respect for the Dales, all mercantile establishments closed on the day of her funeral.

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

Pew taught in London from 1866 until 1869. In 1869, 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 established the Peoples Natural Gas Company. 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 Ketler's 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.

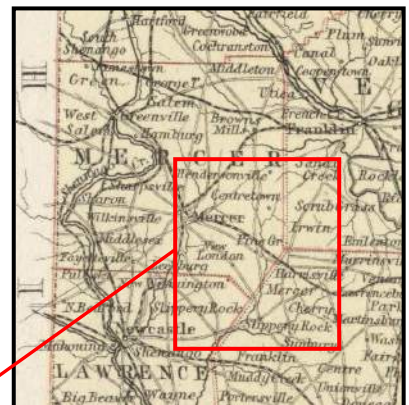
1869

Context:
The Prohibition Party, was founded in 1869 to foster the legal prohibition, by State and National legislation, of the manufacture, importation, exportation, inter-State transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages.

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 the south through Slippery Rock north through Cochranton.

This detail shows the north south road running through Pine Grove.



Roadway

By this time, Pine Grove was developing as the center of transportation in southeastern Mercer County. The north – south road intersected the east – west road to Mercer and Harrisville.

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)