

### Grove City Area Historical Society

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PERMIT NO. 764



Museum and Gift Shoppe Hours - New for 2007!  
Tuesday-Saturday 12:30pm - 3:30pm

Website:  
www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org  
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# The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

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Volume 6, Issue 3 December 2006

## Grant From Alcoa to Bring Big Changes At Society

The next couple of months are going to bring about a major change at the Historical Society headquarters. We have been notified that we have received a grant for \$6500 from the Alcoa Foundation. This money is going to be used to refurbish a room on the first floor to be used for accessioning items. Right now the accessioning process is sharing space with the office, the computer and the printers. The refurbished room will have insulated walls, a new ceiling and reinforced floor and additional outlets for computers and printers.

Work will begin slowly at first, but once we have closed for the winter the workers will be in the building full time. When we reopen next spring it will be exciting to see what changes and improvements have been made.

The Grove City Area Historical Society is very fortunate to have the support of the Alcoa Foundation. Without support such as this, the refurbishing of the headquarters would be a long process.



"Before" photos of the room to be refurbished with the Alcoa grant.

## Area Clubs Visit the Society

Members of the AARP, The Kiwanis and The Rotary Clubs were recent visitors at the Historical Society. Mary Sample spoke to all three organizations about the history of the society. She told of the first small group who met to discuss the possibility of such an organization and how that small group led to the present organization that has over 450 members. Among the things she talked about were the three major goals that were accomplished within the first years. Those goals were: To become a tax exempt organization, become incorporated and find a building that would serve as a headquarters.

Members of all three organizations had the opportunity to tour the building, hear stories about the building and the "resident ghost," look at the many displays and learn about the society's long range plans.



Kiwanis Members

Rotary Members

YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENSURES OUR SUCCESS

Make Checks Payable To: Grove City Area Historical Society

To join or renew your membership, please send your payment along with your name, address, phone number and email address to the Grove City Area Historical Society.

Founding and Life Memberships are payable over 3 years.

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:**

Founding	\$1,000.00
Life	\$500.00
Corporate	\$250.00
Family	\$40.00
Individual	\$20.00
Student / Senior	\$10.00

**DONATIONS:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$

**PLEASE CIRCLE:** new member  renewal  change of address

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**  
GCAHS is a tax exempt charitable 501c3 organization. All membership contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law. THANK YOU

### President's Corner



December is upon us and Christmas is very near. The year is almost over! This has been an exciting and fruitful year for the Society. I want to thank all the volunteers who gave so much time to make the year a success. You are the energy that propels us forward.

The new displays created more interest in our history. Our excellent window displays have been enjoyed by many passers-by and have brought in more visitors. Over the past eight months we had over 1200 visitors. The heating and cooling system has been a great asset. We can now comfortably use the building year round.

Our spring banquet was well attended at which we enjoyed Terry Farren's enlightening review of what took place in Grove City over the past 25 years. Throughout the year more than 150 individuals gave more than 1000 historical items to our growing collection. Many of you attended and enjoyed our Christmas open house and member reception.

We recently received a nice grant for \$6500 from ALCOA to remodel our accessions office. We also hope to receive a \$5000 state grant through Dick Stevenson's office to finish replacing the second floor windows.

The book The Way We Were has sold well, and we still have copies. So if you need a gift for someone, stop in or give us a call. The building closes for the winter on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We will check our answering machine often.

Thanks everyone and continue the fine work in 2007.

Dr Thomas Armour

### Santa Claus Came To GCAHS



Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> was party time at the historical society. Along with the revelers in Olde Town Grove City, the historical society had a

wine and cheese open house for the members. About 100 people came to enjoy the delicious snacks provided by Cameron Catering. Everyone was greeted by Santa Claus.

Members had an opportunity to renew friendships, reminisce about times past and enjoy the numerous displays.

Many people asked to take a tour of the building, so trips were taken upstairs and down-

stairs as stories were told about the hotel of the past. It was a pleasant afternoon for everyone and a wonderful way to begin the holiday season.



Open House Visitors

### It Is Official



Tom Armour is presented the certificate which designates the society as haunted.

On Sunday, November 19, 2006, the Grove City Area Historical Society was presented a certificate by the Northwest Pennsylvania Hauntings Association stating that the headquarters at 111 College Avenue is haunted. The certificate indicates that the headquarters is a **CERTIFIED HAUNTED BUILDING**. This designation is the result of several late night vigils that used: EVP Audio, EMF Fluctuations, Digital Photos and Infrared Video. Numerous soundings were recorded plus many sounds ranging from a child's

giggle to footsteps to prolonged sighs.

The headquarters was built between 1905 and 1910. At that time it was called the Uber House. It had always been a hotel until the Historical Society took ownership in 1999. With so many people having stayed at the hotel, it is no wonder that there are spirits around.

The committee that is writing the next book on the buildings of Grove City is trying to find out information about the years from when the building was built to the mid 1940s when the Trepasso family took ownership. So far, no links have been discovered that could shed any light on the events and activities of residents and/or guests in the early years of the building.

### From The Accessions Committee

This is an Edison electric egg cooker which was used in the Penn Grove Hotel at one time. It was recently donated by Ann Shannon. Probably dating from the 1930's, the egg cooker would lift the cooked eggs in the egg cups out of the water when the time was up. This and many other interesting and innovative historical items can be seen at the Society Headquarters museum. Beginning in 2007 there will be new hours for the museum and gift shoppe. The new hours will be Tuesdays through Saturdays 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Stop in!



### I Can't Find My Car Keys...

I can't find my car keys! Where did I leave my purse?! What did I do with the dog's leash? These are common statements at our house. However, when I recently started looking for the gas engine that Cooper Cameron gave to the historical society before they left Grove City, my husband started to listen.

As Cooper Cameron was in the final stages of closing it's doors, SOMEONE called me and said that they were donating a gas engine to the historical society! We were just in the formation stages of our organization and I remember saying, "What are we going to do with a gas engine?" Not to worry was the response, THEY would store it until we were ready for it. That is the last I thought about the gas engine until this spring when a retired engineer from Cooper stopped in to see what memorabilia we have from the plant. In talking with him, I remembered the gas engine!

I called the last secretary to work at the plant. She had no knowledge of this. I called the gentleman who did the final inventory of the facility. There was nothing left that was a gas engine. I asked the historical society members who were on the first board. They all remember the gas engine, but no one has any idea where it is.

Now I can understand loosing the car keys, my purse and the dog's leash, but how did we loose a gas engine? If anyone knows anything about this engine, or has any idea where it might be, please contact the historical society. Old age, failing eye sight, senility, whatever you want to attribute this to: HOW DO YOU LOOSE A GAS ENGINE? Any help or suggestions will be appreciated.

Skip Sample  
First President

### GCAHS has a friend "Deep In The Heart of Texas"

The Grove City Area Historical Society has a new friend. It is Bob Humphreys from Houston, Texas. Bob is a native of Grove City and spent his professional career working for the Cooper Industry Corporation at various locations world wide. Bob was born in 1926 and went to Lincoln School for first through fifth grades. He lived at the corner of Chestnut and North Center Street. His favorite place to play was in the woods and swamps around Wolf Creek.

His father also worked for Cooper Industry, so when the family moved, it was always to a place where there was a Cooper facility.

Bob received his education at Otterbein and Tulsa Universities. He became an engineer for the company and continued the family tradition of working for Cooper Energy.

Bob has roots in Grove City that include the Fithian, Book, Kildoo, Riddle, Steindorf, Christy, and Emery names. His family homestead was in North Liberty. He has given us enough lineage that we will begin a geneology on the Humphreys name.

**Why are we discussing this person who does not live here?** He is putting together information on Cooper Bessemer. Considering the impact that the Bessemer Gas Engine Company has had on this community we have very little information or memorabilia. Bob is sending us as much information as he can put together.

What memorabilia or information do you have hidden away that you would be willing to donate to the Historical Society? Look around your home and see if you have items that would be of interest to the historical society.

You can bring items to the headquarters - 111 College Avenue - from 11 - 3 Tuesday through Saturday. We are open until the middle of December. We then close until the beginning of April. In the meantime, if you find something of interest you may call one of the directors and we will be glad to pick up the item.

**October is a busy month** for the Grove City Area Historical Society. This is the time when students from the eighth grade at the Middle School come for a visit. This year close to 200 students toured the Headquarters. Their visit is part of a unit for their English class. They are to write an historical fiction story about someone or some event in the history of Grove City. As part of this unit, they visit the Presbyterian Cemetery on Greenwood Drive where Valentine and Margaret Cunningham are buried. Mary Sample spends a day with each class discussing interesting events, people, businesses, and historical facts of Grove City. The students then tour the Historical Society Headquarters to see the memorabilia that make up the many and varied displays.

Viewing the artifacts of Grove City is not only interesting to the students but encourages their interest in their own family heritage. As a result of this visit, students often come back to the headquarters to spend more time to look at the books and pictures in the library. Here they are able to find out information about their own families, see pictures of parents or grandparents in high school and/or college year books, and learn more about interesting events of the past.

Educating the youth of our community is one way to guarantee the continued interest in and appreciation of our heritage.

