

The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org

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WINTER AT THE GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winter is almost over! The Headquarters has been closed since December. However, things have not been quiet! Many things have been happening.

The first week in January brought out the display committee. All the displays were taken down and put away in their proper place. Items that had never been accessioned were set aside to be properly catalogued and then stored over the winter.

The book committee continues to work each Saturday. They are interviewing people, visiting places of interest, and developing an outline for the next publication.

The "Alcoa Room" is rapidly taking on a new look. The walls are now a soft yellow. The new ceiling has bright lights. New flooring is being installed. New computer desks and cabinets complete the change.

February 5th found another contractor working. He did the painting in the large middle display room. He also added display rails on three walls to provide for the showing of the collection of Wendell August Forge bronze and pewter Christmas Plates that have been donated.

March finds a new group working. The display committee will once again be busy getting the new displays ready for the opening on April 10th. Memorabilia continues to be donated and plans made for their display. Many of the items previously displayed will be out again, but not necessarily in the same place, and new acquisitions will be included. Permanent items for display will be art work by local artists, pictures of important people, and items representing businesses of the past.

So, mark April 10, 2007 on your calendar. You will want to come and see the new Grove City Area Historical Society.

GUESTS OF THE SOCIETY



December 22, 2006 found nine young men from Cub Scout Pack 76 visiting the Historical Society. They were interested in learning about the businesses of Grove City in the past. One of the displays they found interesting was the display of dairies in the community. The Creamery, once located on Lincoln Avenue where the USIS building now stands, was surprising to them. They had trouble imagining cows in that area. Each student was given a magnet showing the Creamery with the cows around it.

Board of Directors

*Tom Armour, President
Member-at-large*

*Ed Carlson, 1st VP
Member-at-large*

*Don Beightol, 2nd VP
Grove City Borough*

*Georgia McIntire, Sec.
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Member-at-large, Treas.*

*Judy Hassler
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*Dean Kildoo
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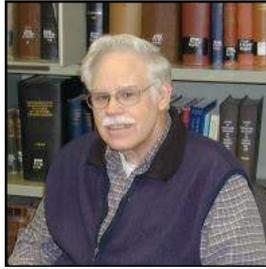
*Lillian Reeher
Member-at-large*

*Paula Louise
Grove City Borough*

*Debbie St. John
Newsletter Editor*

President's Corner

As a new year unfolds, exciting events are happening with and at the Society. The association elected or re-elected board members. Then the board elected officers for the year. We are pleased to have Ed Carlson, 1st VP and Don Beightol, 2nd VP on the executive along with Georgia McIntire, Secretary, Richard Snyder, Treasurer, and myself as president.



Completion of our new and renovated accessions office adds much needed operational space. On returning from a trip South I was very pleased with how it appeared. Amazing! All of you should stop in and see it! Here, items given to the society are received, cataloged, and prepared for display or storage. This process is vital for us to accomplish our mission. The Society extends a thank you to the local business that helped make this room possible. ALCOA provided a grant of \$6500, Frank Zingone provided carpet and paint for the walls, cabinets were donated by the Tower Apartments, and John Moon, Builder, did the renovation and contributed some of the materials.

We recently received a wonderful collection of Wendell August Christmas Plates and the donor also provided for their display. Also, the donation came with a fresh coat of paint on the walls. Again, the paint was supplied by Frank Zingone. Do not miss seeing this new display!

Our library has been repainted and rearranged thanks to the leadership of Anita DeMarco and Dara Shirey and their helpers.

New displays are in the works and should be ready for the April opening. Come and see the exciting changes! All of you are helping the Society accomplish it's goals. Thanks to everyone.

Dr Tom Armour

President

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

January brought some new and some familiar faces to the Board of Directors for the Grove City Area Historical Society. The new faces are **Edward Carlson, Paula Louise, Sam Williamson and Richard Snyder.** Lillian Reeher, who was already on the board is continuing to work on the second book, **Richard Snyder,** will be the treasurer, **Frank Hoffman** will continue to head the accessions committee. **Ed Carlson** was elected first vice president, **Don Beightol** was elected second vice president. **Tom Armour** will continue as president. **Ed, Frank, Paula, Lillian, Richard and Sam** were all elected for a 3 year term.

Many of you may wonder how the election process began. When the Historical Society was formed a board was self-selected from interested volunteers. At the first board meeting each member drew a number: 1, 2, or 3. If you drew a 1, you would serve on the board for 1 year. If you drew a 2, your term was 2 years. If you drew a 3, your term was 3 years. This created a board where people would serve but also provided a way for new people to come on the board every year. The by-laws state that a person can only serve 2 consecutive three year terms, then, they must go off the board for at least one year before running for election again. This prevents any one person from "running the show" for too long.

GENEALOGY LIBRARY RENOVATED!!!

Dara Shirey, our soon-to-be registered Genealogist, and her sidekick, Anita DeMarco, were ably assisted by Linda Beatty, Lynn Shirey, John Moon, Dean Kildoo, Matt Louise and the George Jr. Republic Boys, Betty Hart, and Robert Hinds, as they completely revamped and redecorated the Genealogy Library. Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude is extended to them for their willing services.

**WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT
WITHOUT YOU!**

RECENT ACCESSION



Pictured is a dress donated by Leo and Carmella Feld. The Felds met in the service during World War II. Carmella wore the dress, made from Leo's parachute, as matron of honor at the wedding of her sister (Maria Mattes).

Donations to the **Grove City Historical Society's Memorial Album** are as follows:

- Mrs. Dean (Betty Marie) Kildoo
- Ms. Jean E. McCoy
- Ms. Jean V. Johnn

The Historical Memory Album is a photo essay about deceased friends and family members, prepared by the people who loved them and admired them the most. The monetary memorial donations are used to enhance the development of the society.

THIS OLD HOUSE

When admiring a lovely old house, did you ever hear a person say "If this old house could only talk!" Well, if the Historical Society headquarters could only talk, what a story it would tell.

Recently, Rhonda McClelland, the Recorder of Deeds for Mercer County, was asked if she would look up the chain of ownership for the Historical Society headquarters. She readily agreed to do so. A few days later, a large envelope came from her office. What a pleasure it was to read the contents.

Prior to our headquarters being called the Traveler's Hotel, it was known as the Uber House. Our people who are writing a book on the buildings in Grove City could not find anything out about this Uber Family. Since the building was called The Uber House, it was easy to assume that the building was owned by a family named Uber. Not so! Also, the history commonly related was that the building was built in about 1905. Again, not so!

According to the deeds, it was built shortly after 1893. The first recorded document concerning the property was that ownership transferred from J.C Black and his wife Amanda to Harriet F. Hughes on 7-1-1893 for \$300. This was the "price for a parcel of land." Ownership changed again on June 8, 1899, to Elsa L. Gilmore for \$1300. This deed indicates that a building was now on the property. On April 25, 1906 ownership changed and the property was sold to J N White for \$1800. On December 30, 1908 the property again sold. This time the sale was to William A. Redmond and Homer A. Rhodes for \$3,000. In 1911 William Redmond took sole ownership.

In 1942 the property transferred to Florence Redmond Slater. It remained in the Redmond/Slater family until it was purchased by the Trepasso family in 1957. Different members of the Trepasso family owned the building until it became the headquarters for the Historical Society on January 11, 2000.

During all this time there is no indication of the use of the building. Supposedly it was a hotel, but there are no records supporting this. We have a picture that shows the lobby of the Uber House, but we have no date or details other than the picture.

Where does the name Uber House come from? No one knows! There is no mention of the name Uber on any of the documents in the chain of ownership.

As stories of the "spirits" at our headquarters have circulated, people have wondered if anyone knew the Uber Family whose name is associated with the building, and if they could shed any light on people who had lived there over the years.

Now we have an entire new list of names to research. If anyone knows anything about any of the families named above and could shed some light on their activities in relation to the "Uber House" please contact a member of the Society board.

For sure, "If this old house could talk," what a tale it would tell!

REOPENING DAY - APRIL 10, 2007

Join us as we begin our seventh year of service to the Community. The Grove City Area Historical Society VOLUNTEERS have been hard at work redecorating and changing the displays in the museum. The Genealogy Library has been redesigned and a new office room has been established. The general public is invited to stop in and see these outstanding developments.

Our opening date is April 10, 2007 and our regularly scheduled hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. (please note the hour change!)

We are pleased to offer Genealogy support every Tuesday or by appointment. Dara Shirey will be able to assist you in your endeavors.

"Volunteerism is a tremendous economic force, but it is never discussed in economics or in business school."

--Walter Hoadley, former Chief Economist for the Bank of America

"Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

--Margaret Mead

Call the Society today to see what you can do to help!

Grove City Area Historical Society

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 Grove City, PA 16127
 724-458-1798

**NON-PROFIT
 BULK RATE
 U. S. POSTAGE
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Museum and Gift Shoppe Hours—New for 2007!
 Tuesday-Saturday 12:30pm - 3:30pm

Website:
www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org
 Email: gcahs@zoominternet.net

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.
 Make Checks Payable To: Grove City Area Historical Society
 Founding and Life Memberships are payable over 3 years.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:		DONATIONS:
Founding	\$1,000.00	\$ _____
Life	\$500.00	
Corporate	\$250.00	
Family	\$40.00	
Individual	\$20.00	
Student / Senior	\$10.00	

PLEASE CIRCLE: new member renewal change of address

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

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

YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENSURES OUR SUCCESS