

The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org

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September 2007

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Newsletter Editor*

OOPS!

July 10th and 12th were busy days at the Grove City Area Historical Society. For these two days, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. eighteen people from the Reynolds Packaging Division of Alcoa, here in Grove City, worked at the headquarters. This work was part of an Action Grant which we received. The grant comes in two parts. The first part is employees doing work. The second part is that we receive \$3,000.

The work done was painting 5 areas of the building. The fun began shortly after 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday with a big **OOPS** when a newly opened bucket of paint was dumped on a second floor rug. But no fear: this was not a problem! The spilled paint was used to



paint the woodwork, the yucky red shag carpet was hauled out for the garbage, and the floor was painted a nice brick red.

A good time was had by all. The headquarters has 5 newly painted areas and we will have \$3,000 to spend. Alcoa is certainly a "good friend" of our organization.

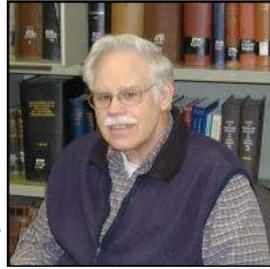
EIGHTH ANNUAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY BANQUET

The Eighth Annual banquet was held on April 28, 2007, in Fellowship Hall of East Main Presbyterian Church. Eighty members attended. Four members retiring from the board were honored for their years of service. They were Anita Demarco, Nanny Jean Hay, Marty St. John and Skip Sample. Tom Armour, President, presented each of the retiring directors with a plate made from an Arthur Armour die.

The program for the evening was presented by Dr. David Armour. His talk was on the French and Indian War and how it affected Northwest Pennsylvania. Mercer County and the Grove City Area were "in the thick" of much of the travel and activity associated with the war. The presentation was fascinating even for those who were not history buffs. **Valentine Cunningham** is credited with being the first settler in the Grove City Area. **He is the first recorded settler**; however there were many people in this area before the Cunningham's arrived. Hunters, trappers, surveyors and soldiers were in the area in great numbers. However, none of these people had names that were remembered, and only Valentine Cunningham stayed. Therefore, he is given credit for being our first resident.

President's Corner

A great deal has happened here at the Society since our last Newsletter. I wish to thank the many members and supporters who have moved us along. Your continued involvement will keep the heritage of Grove City area alive!



Our new Alcoa accessions room is in full operation. A new computer, network expansion, and upgraded accessions software has given us the tools to receive and catalog donated items. Keep them coming! The Victor Hughes Little League Collection is a great example. A laptop computer donated by USIS will help us take our story to many community organizations.

Alcoa, along with the GJ boys, helped us get rooms ready to use to prepare our next publication and organize our clothing collection. In addition, Alcoa donated \$3000 to help with remodeling and operation costs.

Don't hesitate to stop in and see the action. You will not trip in the entrance way because that is fixed as well.

Dr Tom Armour

PROM DRESSES, WEDDING PICTURES, ANTIQUE TOOLS

What do prom dresses, wedding pictures and antique tools have in common? They have all been items recently displayed in the window at the Grove City Area Historical Society. March and April had a window display that was appropriate for the spring months when proms and weddings are important. Prom gowns owned by Becky May, Mary Kay Mattocks and the Shaner girls were displayed. Wedding pictures taken by "Dusty" Rhoades were also displayed.



The current display in the window is antique tools provided by Norman and Virginia Turner. The tools cover items used in farming and carpentry as well as things that would be found in a kitchen.

If you would like to provide a window display, contact George Hodge. She has done a wonderful job in the past displaying local items of interest to Grove City. Let your creative mind wander and come up with suggestions for the future.

HATS OFF TO OUR CAN-DO VOLUNTEERS!

Gary Forsythe and Mary Ann McClinton headed the newly formed "CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES TEAM". They were supported with a willing committee consisting of Marianne Harley, Bonnie Specht and Pauline Thorpe.

Gary Forsythe managed to prepare two rooms for display and storage. Mary Ann, and her team of support, managed to handle all the materials and accessories as per guidelines for handling antique items.

In what looked like a formidable task, these can-do volunteers met regularly and used their expertise to categorize, catalog, clean, sew, or discard items.

This dedicated committee with their upbeat attitude that it "can be" done, will continue to service the Historical Society in their quest to have all these materials available for public display.

Wonderful Addition to Historical Society

Recently, Reverend William Bovard made a wonderful donation to our society. He gave us pen and ink sketches that he drew of all the churches in Grove City. They came beautifully matted and ready for display.

Reverend Bovard is a retired Presbyterian minister who has worked at both East Main and Tower Presbyterian Churches as a visiting pastor.

One of the newly painted areas at the headquarters is going to be devoted to the churches of the community. These sketches will be the focal point of this new display area. Rev. Bovard gave a copy of the church sketches to each church.



WANTED!
GROVE CITY MEMORABILIA
SUITABLE FOR
HOMECOMING WINDOW DISPLAY.
ITEMS FROM
CHEERLEADING, ALL SPORTS,
BAND, PLAYS ETC.
ITEMS CAN BE DONATED OR
LOANED.
PLEASE RESPOND IMMEDIATELY!

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Recently a long range planning committee was established to determine the needs of our organization. The committee consists of Don Beightol, Lillian Reeher, and Skip Sample. Following is the list of goals which were put together.

- 1. GREATER MEMBER INVOLVEMENT- DEFINITION OF MEMBERSHIP**
- 2. MAINTAIN FINANCIAL SOLVENCY - INCREASE ENDOWMENT**
 - a. Determine capital needs for next 5 – 10 years**
 - 1. Develop annual fundraisers**
- 3. DEVELOP JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING MEMBER ORIENTATION AND PARTICIPATION**
- 4. CONTINUE IMPROVING BUILDING (NOT IN ORDER OF PRIORITY)**
 - a. Place handrails on all stairways**
 - b. Finish windows**
 - c. Repair ceilings in second floor**
 - d. Better use of former kitchen**
 - e. Redecorate office and back room**
 - f. Safeguard important papers – all in one place in metal box**
 - g. Develop and post fire escape plans – extinguishers on all levels**
 - h. Commission architectural plans for building**
 - i. Find use for small bathroom off main display room**
 - j. Develop plan for rooms and spaces**
 - k. Look into chair lifts to second floor**
 - l. Addition of smoke alarms**
 - m. Replace side walk, water and gas lines**
- 5. EXPAND AND BETTER ORGANIZE LIBRARY**
- 6. MOVE GENEALOGY COMPUTER LAB**
- 7. HIRE MUSEUM CURATOR – PART TIME**
- 8. ESTABLISH PROCEDURE FOR DISPLAYING DONATED ITEMS**
- 9. ESTABLISH RECIPROCITY AND GOOD WILL WITH OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETYS**

What have we accomplished so far to reach these objectives?

Financial solvency is extremely important to any organization. Included in this issue is a financial statement. Our finances are good, but we must always be looking for outside sources of money. We cannot function based on membership renewals.

Work is continuously being done on the building. Handrails were put on both sides of the basement stairs, thanks to a contribution by Dr. Bernard Hoyt. All the windows have been replaced thanks to grants from Rep. Dick Stevenson and State Senator Bob Robbins. Most of the kitchen has been cleared of “stuff” and plans are being made to use this area for future displays. Boys from George Junior Republic, under the supervision of Matt Louise, have been a great help in moving “stuff” from one place to another. The Alcoa Room has been refurbished due to a grant from The Alcoa Foundation and now serves as our administrative office. The former administrative office is being renovated to be used by the book committee. Work on this room and several upstairs rooms will be done by employees from Alcoa who participate in community service projects. Important documents have been put into a safety deposit box at a local bank. Fire extinguishers have been installed as well as smoke detectors. The library has been redecorated and rearranged by Dara Shirey who is a genealogist. She is available every Tuesday at the headquarters. Money is being set aside each month for the eventual hiring of a curator.

As you can see, many of the goals have been reached. The board is constantly evaluating where we are and where we hope to be in the near future.

Grove City Area Historical Society

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 724-458-1798

**NON-PROFIT
 BULK RATE
 U. S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 GROVE CITY, PA.
 PERMIT NO. 764**



Museum and Gift Shoppe Hours—New for 2007!
 Tuesday-Saturday 12:00pm - 3:00pm

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	

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!**

PLEASE CIRCLE: new member renewal change of address

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENSURES OUR SUCCESS