

The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org

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IN MEMORY OF DON BEIGHTOL



The loss of Don Beightol on November 26, 2007 affected our community in many different aspects. If you didn't recognize his friendly face, you recognized his name.

Over the past 78 years he had engrained himself in the community as an Air Force Veteran in Korea, a mechanic of both autos and planes, a part time policeman, the chief of our volunteer firemen, an acting Grove City Borough Manager in 1984, the Public Works Manager, an Elder at Center Presbyterian Church and above all a devoted community member and a caring family man.

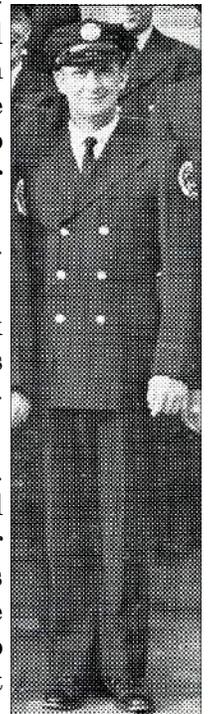
Stephanie Hartle, in her Allied News front page article, summed it up best: "A Good Man". Beightol impacted many; loved the town, and its history, and knew it well.

Just when his love of community started, we're not sure. As a fireman, policeman, public works manager and borough manager, he was committed to learning all the streets, as well as the water and sewage lines in each of the community's five wards. At some point in time, he became a collector of early borough maps. We once were told that he possessed the best known collection of our borough maps. As he was called upon to supervise the borough he developed a keen sense of the water's value and attempted to note the location of early wells, artesian wells, and other valuable water sources located within the borough limits.

He drew upon his love of drawing and concern for accuracy to draw his own maps and/or blueprints of his projects.

In his later years he turned his passion to keeping track of the changing faces on Grove City's downtown. His records show a record of the streets from their beginning to the present. Some of his works will appear in future publications.

He will be sorely missed by all his friends at the Society. When we met each Saturday afternoon, he usually would take the chair at the opposite end of the table from our Chairperson, Lillian Reeher. We all referred to it as 'Don's Chair'. We would save it for him on the rare occasion he wasn't first to arrive. He liked to tease us all but seemed to delight in teasing Jean and making fun if Lillian couldn't understand what he was trying to show her.



(continued on page 2)

He loved to find facts that the rest of us didn't know. If you asked him a question, he delighted in knowing the answer or knowing exactly where to research it. He would get that tell-tale smile on his face and up lift his eyebrows, raise up his finger as if to say "Wait just a minute". He would then get up from his chair, go to the exact shelf, find the answer and return to the table with facts or figures in hand. This was not a one time happening. We often referred to him as "The Grove City Historian" when introducing him to visitors. He would just smile and shake his head in disbelief. Truly, he was not only our friend, but an encyclopedia full of knowledge. His passing will no doubt slow the progress of our next book. He tried to warn us of what was to come to pass but we just laughed at him and basically told him he'd be around forever. He seemed to know better.

He had a lot of fun laughing at the tales that the Society was haunted. Once when Lillian took some visitors downstairs, Don motioned to me to follow him to the back stairs where he stood in the darkened stairway until they approached that part of the tour. He stepped out, frightening some of the poor ladies causing them to run for the stairway. We're not sure if he believed the ghost stories, but let me tell you what happened one January afternoon after his passing. I sat in 'Don's Chair' and was talking to Chet Coulter about my plan to run a pledge drive to help defray the cost of renovating the upstairs. The total of our needs were pretty costly. Don wouldn't have wanted to spend that much money, at least not all at once. He was wanting only to complete the five front upstairs rooms for now. As we talked there was a large cracking noise, like a lightning strike, which startled everyone in the room. The back of my heavy duty wooden office chair fell to the floor having broken the two outside posts and all inner posts cleanly from the seat. I fell backward catching myself on one of the shelves behind before falling completely off the chair. Such a clean break we had never witnessed. At once we all came to the conclusion that Don didn't like the idea of me sitting in 'His' chair and talking about such high finances.



This phenomena happened again when the Building Committee was trying to agree upon how we could best renovate the kitchen area. As the six of us stood in a circle discussing the placement of lights, three or four small pieces of cement fell from the ceiling, dust and pieces fell directly on my head and shoulders. I told the group that Don was trying to tell us to get started.

Don had been very emphatic at the last Executing Meeting that we needed to get the kitchen ready to use next Spring and that we need not spend as much money on the job as one of our earlier estimates had quoted.

There is only one way to finish this tribute to Don Beightol. He was a good man, and good men are hard to find these days. Don, you are sorely missed by your friends at the Society.

TRIBUTES TO DON FROM FRIENDS AND MEMBERS

- What a friend we had in Don, he was always there to help and guide us - Jean Carlson
- Coming in to the Society and finding Don sitting in the Library was always a pleasant moment. He never said a whole lot, but when Don talked, "Every one listened". His quiet and kind manner is so very missed - Marty St John
- While working with Don once a month, I learned things about Grove City that I never knew or even thought I should know. He had been in places in Grove City that "no man had been" and seen things that "no man had seen"...and he remembered it all. It was a privilege and honor to work with Don. I will miss him terribly! - Mary Kay Mattocks
- Don was a great asset to the Society. He shared whatever he knew about our community. He was diligent about researching and recording the changes in our community because he wanted others to have an accurate picture of our past. He will be missed. We will seek to continue his example as we fulfill our mission. - Tom Armour

• We recently lost a valued citizen of our community. I was a boy of ten or eleven when I first met Don Beightol. He was a mechanic at Sontag's Sunoco Station, now Kwik Fill on North Broad Street.

I often had tire problems with my bicycle. When the tires would go flat, I would walk it to Sontag's. Cliff, the owner, would pass me off to Don and he would fix it. I would pay the 25 cents and go. Well, after many times he, in frustration, took me in hand and taught me how to fix them. After that I paid my 25 cents, fixed it and pedaled off.

Years later in 1977, call it fate, I was looking for a job. I was told they were hiring at Public Works. I put in an application and a week or two later I got a call for an interview.

I knew Don was the Supervisor. We talked and he asked me about my experience. A few days later I got a call and was hired.

Don was a man who knew his own mind when it came to jobs. We would get our day's instructions and go to work. Over the years and many jobs, we would joke around. Don liked to play pranks like squirt you with a hose when your back was turned. He delighted in sending me to streets like Jefferson Street. I would give him a look, then he would say - You know it as Oak Hill Drive. I'd smile and go. It peaked my interest to learn more about Grove City's past.

In 1982 I joined the Grove City Volunteer Fire Department. Don as Chief taught me a lot. He ran a good department and we fought many fires over the years. He instilled a pride in our department that stays with me today.

When I got the chance to work on our book, Grove City, The Way We Were I got the chance to work with Don again. We had fun on a different level.

I have seen him get mad, but I never saw him raise his voice. You knew he was mad when his face would turn red from the neck up, his jaw would set and he would walk away.

Like I said before, Grove City has lost a valued citizen. I will look back and remember the good times and think fondly of Don Beightol -- my Boss, my Chief, my Friend. - Willie Caldwell

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

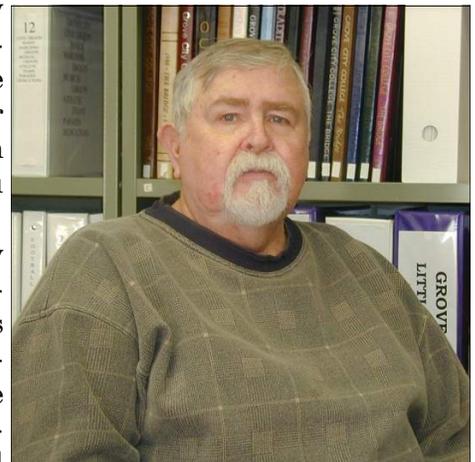
Surprise! Surprise! Another bulky Newsletter. No, our quarterly newsletter has not been changed to a monthly publication. Our supposedly slow winter closure months have been packed full of behind the scenes activities. One of the most pressing elements is the fact that our newsletter editor is preparing to welcome into her family a new baby on March 28th. Thus, we are rushing the March/April Edition to update you on all the exciting things happening with our Society.

First, the kitchen work has a strong beginning thanks to Dara Shirey and family. Materials have been purchased, the old ceiling removed, portions of the new ceiling have been installed, the bowed wall which was behind the old cupboards has been repaired and all the lights are purchased, as well. The plumbing from the basement is in and awaits the Executive Board's approval of which type of hot water tank will be installed. Frank Hoffman and his helpers have cleaned Room 313 and stored accessions from 2000 to 2003 on the second floor. Be sure to check out the new window display put in by "Skip" Sample and Georgie Hodge. It features our church community and some of our local artists. Pledges are coming in and new memberships are arriving daily. My compliments to our caring community. As you can see by this Newsletter, we are moving forward at a rapid pace.

New ideas are being processed to keep up the pace. Some of these are: an 8th grade essay contest, a possible butter making demonstration for the Strawberry Festival, and a summer speaker's lecture series. Ideas just keep coming and I'm very thankful for these brainstormers. Please keep the suggestions coming and stop in and visit our Society Headquarters when we open for Summer Hours on April 15th. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 12 pm to 3 pm daily.

Again, thanks for your support.

Ed Carlson ~President



2008 TRADE SHOW

Two inches of new fallen snow kept area residents cleaning their walks and driveways as the Borough employees cleared and salted the streets. The 2008 Grove City Trade Show had a slow start due to the weather conditions, but gained momentum and had a steady group of visitors throughout the day. Dara Shirey, our display chairperson had an excellent display for us featuring some of the older books from our Library, pottery from our Museum Shop and interesting quotes about genealogical research. Jean Carlson had a huge enlargement made up of our Grove City The Way We Were and asked people to help us identify those featured on the picture. Several people eagerly signed up for our classes on antiques and genealogy scheduled in the months to come. A number of our members stopped by to visit and give a hand. Many old friends came to give up historical tidbits from their Grove City experiences. The two tables were manned by Dara and Linten Shirey, Ed and Jean Carlson, Tom Armour, Georgia MacIntrye and Lillian Reynolds Reeher. The event was well organized, the parking was a little distant but a good time was had by all.



THE GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL SPONSOR THE GROVE CITY CHAMBER'S "BUSINESS AFTER HOURS" SOCIAL ON MAY 15TH, 5 - 6:30 PM. OUR MEMBERS ARE TO FURNISH SNACKS, COFFEE AND PUNCH.

MEMORIAL ALBUM

The Grove City Historical Society Memorial Album has been updated with memorial information and photos of Mr. Donald Beightol and Mr. Karl Grabigel. This album is a photo essay about deceased friends and family members. The general public is invited to preserve the memory of their loved ones as they make a monetary donation to the Society along with photos and information about the life of the deceased. An acknowledgment card is sent to the family of the person being remembered acknowledging the donor.

The funds realized from this project will be used to enhance the Historical Society in all their projects. The album is on display at the Society for all to enjoy. Please contact Anita DeMarco (724-458-9499) for further information on this project.

NINETH ANNUAL BANQUET

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL
EAST MAIN PRESBYTERIAN

APRIL 19, 2008
6:00 P.M.

\$25 PER PERSON

GUEST SPEAKER – LILLIAN REEHER

“CLAUDE MONET, ANDREW WYETH AND ALL THE REST OF US”

ENTERTAINMENT:

GROVE CITY CHAPTER OF BARBER SHOP QUARTETS

_____ I/We plan to attend the Historical
Society Banquet on April 19, 2008 at the Fellowship Hall of East
Main Presbyterian Church.

DINNER SELECTION: _____ Braised Steak
_____ Stuffed Pork Chop

Appetizer, cole slaw, mashed red skin potatoes, gravy, mixed
vegetables in a cheese sauce, rolls, dessert, coffee, iced tea

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 764
GROVE CITY, PA. 1612

PLEASE RESPOND BY APRIL 9, 2008

LILLIAN REEHER - 2008 ANNUAL BANQUET SPEAKER



Lillian Reeher, author of The Wolf Creek Legacy I and II will be our guest speaker at our April 15th Annual Banquet. Lillian has lived in or near Grove City her entire life. During her childhood years she resided on Columbia Avenue. When she reached high school, she moved from there to the corner of Greenwood Drive and North Main Street just across the street from Wolf Creek and the old Cunningham Mill which marked the beginning of Grove City's earliest industry. Two small blocks down Greenwood Drive on the right lays the old Presbyterian Cemetery which houses the resting place of two of Grove City's first founders: Valentine Cunningham (1804) and his wife Margaret (1800). It seems that Lillian Reeher was bound from birth to become one of Grove City's best known local writers of the town's history.

Over the years she has developed a heartfelt love of her home town and has written with an endearing love about the town's development, its developers, and their beloved Wolf Creek.

A graduate of Slippery Rock College with a Bachelor's Degree in Education majoring in Elementary Education, with a minor in English, she taught for five years in the Grove City Area School District's Elementary Schools. She then took time away from her profession to raise her children; Jason, Lance, and Marcie. Her next accomplishment was a Master's Degree in American Literature from Slippery Rock University. After her child rearing years, she was drawn to a job as a reporter for The Allied News where she became Editor after a short time. It was during this period of her life that she began writing a specialty column about Grove City's early history. She relates that she began her research at the Mercer County Historical Society. There she gleaned bits and pieces of Wolf Creek history but found herself drawn to oral interviewing. This lit a real flame in her writing style. The personal history brought many unpublished bits and pieces of the community's growth over the years. During these discussions, the people who had lived their entire lives near Grove City provided her with the living history of our past. As she stitched these stories together, she found herself producing a patch work quilt which she was later to call her Wolf Creek Legacy, A History of Southeastern Mercer County. These stories were so popular that Allied News published them in two volumes.

After leaving The Allied News, she was offered a position as an English Professor at Penn State Extension, the Shenango Campus where she has taught for the past 17 years. During this period she has also served as the major writer in 2 Grove City books entitled Grove City's Bicentennial, Reflections of our Past and The Society's Grove City, The Way We Were.

During this time she also pursued her hobby as an artist. This activity has drawn her to live in a rural area at the base of a wooded hillside with her own "Walden's Pond" and her own spring fed stream. Along with her beloved pets under a canopy of tall trees, she finds the ideal rural habitat to write and paint. The jointure of her two life's loves has caused her to embrace the words of a famous writer who told a writer's seminar at the University of Pittsburgh that: "the renown writer stated that a writer must first see or observe the subject; secondly they must hear or listen to it, and then they must make it their own: integrating their own images resulting from their own experiences."

As our guest speaker she will relate her belief, simply stated, "Images make words and words make images".

Vivid and vibrant images are what makes Lillian Reeher's writing so interesting to read. She paints a word picture so that all can see her ideas. We urge you to take advantage of this occasion, to meet greet and listen to Grove City's best known historical writer.

Perhaps, she will reveal some insights into the Society's upcoming new publication entitled, Grandma Left The Light On.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP 5 NEW MEMBERS?

PLEASE HELP US GROW!

ANTIQUe CLASSES

WHEN: APRIL 15, 22, 29, AND May 6, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.
TO 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS

HOW MUCH: FOUR CLASSES - \$60

WHAT TOPICS: FURNITURE, GLASS, QUILTS, CHINA, PAINTINGS,
JEWELRY, METALS, SILVER, COPPER, BRASS – AND
OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST TO CLASS MEMBERS

WHAT ELSE: ITEMS MAY BE BROUGHT FOR IDENTIFICATION AND
APPRAISAL

WHO: JACK SQUIRES (see attached resume on next page)

THE GROVE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE
A NOTED ANTIQUE DEALER AND APPRAISER IN OUR AREA. HE
HAS OFFERED TO TEACH CLASSES FOR US AS A FUNDRAISER
FOR THE SOCIETY. HE IS WAIVING HIS NORMAL LECTURE FEE
SO THAT WE MAY USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND
RAISE MONEY.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THIS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY. SEATS
ARE LIMITED, SO PLEASE PLAN TO COME AND LET US KNOW
IMMEDIATELY.

_____ plan to attend the antique classes to be held
On April 15, 22, 29, and May 6, 2008.

_____ I am enclosing a check for sixty (\$60) to cover the cost of the classes.

_____ I will pay the sixty (\$60) at the first class.

PLEASE RESPOND BY APRIL 5, 2008



**JACK SQUIRES ANTIQUES
8 ABBEY WAY
GROVE CITY, PA 16127
(724) 458 – 0450**

Partner, Jack Squires Antiques 1970 -

Teaching Antiques

Community College of Allegheny County 1978-1985
Sweetwater Art Center, Sewickley, Pa. 1985-1989
Butler County Historical Society 1996-2001

Management of Antique and Household Auctions 1982 –

Appraisal of Antiques 1980 –

Antique Show Management

Landmarks Show, Station Square 1975-1992
Neville House Show 1986-1990
Sewickley Antique Show 1999-
Kerr Museum Antique Show – Oakmont 2003-

Board of Directors

Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation 1980-1990
Butler County Historical Society 1999-2001
Maridon Museum 1999-2005

GENEALOGY SEMINARS COMING SOON!

Watch for the Grove City Historical Society's Genealogy Seminars to be offered by the Society's Resident Genealogist Dara Shirey. Classes will be scheduled during May, June and July. Times and dates will be forthcoming. To be sure to have a seat, please send Dara a note including family names you wish to research. Also let her know what stage of researching you have reached. Please be reminded that beginners are more than welcome. If you have reached a stumbling block, see if Dara can help you over the hurdle so that you can continue your journey.

**MAKE YOUR MONETARY PLEDGE FOR THE SECOND FLOOR
RENOVATION TODAY -- ANY AMOUNT WILL BE APPRECIATED!**

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY



Mary "Skip" Sample

Mary Sample, nicknamed "Skip," is one of our most highly self motivated members. She possesses an uncanny ability to assess the community's need and then brainstorm until she comes up with some possible solution or improvement to make our community into a renovated reflection of our past.

Two excellent examples of her thought process and related solutions took place in 1972 and 1974.

Let me back up a moment and fill you in with some of Mary's background. She is a Pittsburgh native who graduated from Edgewood High School in 1957, then attended the University of Pittsburgh where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education with a specialty in the kindergarten/primary areas. In 1961 she married John.

Her first position was in the Swissvale School District teaching first and second grades and later first grade in the Churchill area. By the time she and her husband John decided to move from the Pittsburgh area, they had 3 children - Michael, Joseph and Becky - all in grade school. She was free to pursue her teaching profession but believed that a mother should be home for her children. Realizing the Grove City community needed a preschool, she organized a private preschool in her home. From 1974 to 1990 she was the administrator and teacher of that school. After 16 years she decided to pursue other interests, one of which was to become a Grove City Realtor. Grove City's history is intertwined securely around education. Skip Sample had continued to reflect that importance by extending the community's youth an opportunity to get a head start in their education.

A second major brainstorm in 1972 led her to form the Grove City Shade Tree Committee which she chaired for 20 years. The Committee is a cooperative effort between the Grove City Rotary and the Borough. The Borough buys the trees and Rotary plants the them. Once again the shade trees reflect the love the community has had with tree lined streets through the years. Skip also worked with the Rotary and Borough to erect a Memorial Garden in the Grove City Memorial Park.

Her ability to accomplish a task has found her involved in numerous community jobs. She has been a Director of the Chamber of Commerce, a leader on the Executive Committee for the Grove City Bicentennial Celebration, and a founding member of the Grove City Area Historical Society and its first President. She has also served on the Planning Commissions of both Mercer County and the Borough of Grove City.

In 2003-2004 she served as District Governor for the Rotary District 7280 in Northwest Pennsylvania. Probably the least known activity she worked for was a program established to recognize vocational students called ROVA (Rotary Outstanding Vocational Award). Each year, between 80 and 100 vocational students attend a retreat which is sponsored by local Rotary Clubs. Mary "Skip" Sample may be short in stature but extremely tall in community duty.

At the Historical Society she is a major link in all of its activities. She serves on the Long Range Planning Committee, co-chairs the display rooms and windows, generates news articles, helps with interior design, and teaches a local history unit at the Grove City Middle School and then gives them a tour of the Society. She is also the hostess extraordinaire for the social events at the Society.

Along with two of their children and four of their grandchildren, John and Mary Sample have lived in Grove City for 37 years. Their other son and his wife and two children live in North Carolina. Both John and Mary are actively involved in helping the community to go forward into the future while retaining a respect for Grove City's past and the souls of Grove City's historic past.

When you want something done, pick someone who is known to be extremely busy...."Skip" fits the bill and will make the task look easy.

COMING SOON! GENEALOGY CLASSES ---MAY, JUNE, JULY

THE WINTER THAT WAS: 1816

The two major topics of conversation these days seem to be politics and the weather. Both are unpredictable and currently the community has had their fill of both.

It seems that the local old-timers can always point in the period was much worse. Just in these last couple of weeks, we've experienced a daily dose of either rain, sleet, snow, ice or a combination of all. That's not so bad because even I can remember the terrible snows of 1950. A heavy snow storm shut down the whole Grove City area and they had to use bulldozers and dump trucks to clear the local roads. Now that was really a snow to remember. When I mentioned it lately, I knew someone would cite a time when the winter weather was much worse and lasted a lot longer. Sure enough, someone said, "check out the winter of 1816."

The year of 1816 was known as "the year without summer". A book in our Grove City Area Historical Library entitled Plain Grove: A History of its Early Settlement written by Reverend R. McCaslin gives us a glimpse of 1816. On page 183, Reverend McCaslin tells us the following story.

"The year 1816 was made famous as the year without summer. Ice formed an inch thick in May. Fields were planted over and over again till it was too late to replant. June was the coldest ever known in this latitude. Frost and ice were quite common. Almost every green thing in some parts of the country was killed. Fruit was nearly all destroyed. Snow fell 10 inches deep in Vermont, 3 inches in New York and in shallower depths in more southerly regions. In July even, snow fell; and ice formed both in July and August, a half an inch thick. September, October and November were more than ordinarily cold. The winter following was mild. Seed corn for the Spring of 1817 had to be supplied from corn produced in 1815. It sold from \$4 to \$5 a bushel."

The computer also recognizes 1816 as the year without summer, but notes it was also called the "poverty year", "the year there was no summer" or "eighteen hundred and froze to death". It states that Benjamin Franklin was the first to establish the link between volcanic eruptions and climate changes. It is suggested that the eruption of Mount Tambora on the Indonesian Island of Sumbawa on April 5, 1815, resulted in the extremely cold spring and summer in 1816. It changed the climate of the entire planet. In 1816 it snowed in June in the United States and Europe. Crops failed, there was starvation, people lost their farms, and it touched off the wave of emigration that led to the settlement of what is now the American Midwest. In the meantime, hundreds of thousands more starved around the world.

New England was hit exceptionally hard. The June, July and August snowfalls and frost caused the loss of all but the heartiest grains. Destruction of the corn crop forced farmers to slaughter their animals. Soup kitchens were opened to feed the hungry. Sea ice migrated across Atlantic shipping lanes, and Alpine glaciers advanced down mountain slopes to exceptionally low elevations.

From Brethren Life: Frontier, "This was a very bad year, everywhere, but especially on the frontier. A popular expression was: "1816 and froze to death!" It got cold at night all summer and crops would not grow. There was a killing frost at least once during every month. June 5th and 6th, the temperature dropped to below 40, then on the 7th it snowed. There were killing frosts all three nights. By June 11th, the corn was withered and dead in the field. It was replanted, then the new stand was killed in July by another killing frost.

On August 20, 1816, the temperature again plunged and any remaining crops were destroyed. September 27th saw the start of winter with another killing frost...Snows started early in October and stayed on the ground until April 1817. The snows were 2 feet deep with a terrible ice crust on top. Many survived only because the deer were trapped by the snows and ice and could not escape the hunters. Following that winter, deer were so scarce that they could not be depended upon as a source for meat, nor was the common deerskin britches and jacket anymore available..."

In an article from the Decatur County Journal, June 9, 1892, it states: "Sleet and snow fell on 17 different days in May, July was cold and frosty, and ice formed as thick as window panes in every one of the New England states."

(continued on next page)

(The Winter That Was: 1816 continued from previous page)

According to Eric Werme's article 1816: The Year Without Summer "A New Hampshire Perspective", he states that in 1816 family farms were largely subsistent affairs. Transporting crops to the cities was feasible only along waterways. The major crop was Indian corn, most of which was fed to livestock during the long winters, but it was a staple for human consumption too. A warm spell starting the last third of June provided hope that summer had arrived, but a killing frost on July 9th dashed that hope. Some crops did well, apples and pear harvests were very good due in part to the cold weather being hard on insect pests. Potatoes did well too. In Ashland, Reuben Whitten shared his wheat crop with his neighbors. After his death in 1847 they paid for his headstone in his family graveyard. Later, relatives erected a monument saying, "A pioneer of this town. Cold season of 1816 raised 40 bushels of wheat on this land which kept his family and neighbors from starvation". His farm was on a south facing hillside, so probably benefited from the extra sun and being above the valley chill. The high price of grain during the year following 1816 were never equaled until the 1970's.

The effects of the winter of 1816 resulted in Italy having a large amount of red snow falling throughout the year, Hungary experienced brown snow that year. In Europe, they were still recuperating from the Napoleonic Wars and were still suffering from food shortages. Food riots broke out in Britain and France and grain warehouses were looted. The violence was worst in landlocked Switzerland, where famine caused the government to declare a national emergency. Huge storms, abnormal rainfall with flooding of the major rivers of Europe (including the Rhine) are attributed to the same volcanic event.

If you think this winter is bad, 1816's weather with none of the technological advances of today would surely have been much worse. (For some of the people who attend the local churches of Plain Grove and Center, you might be interested in reading the inserts regarding two of the ministers which yoked your congregations together in the beginning. A good history of the Reverend William Woods and the Reverend John Munson are found in the Plain Grove History.)

MARTHA MOSFORD

Martha Mosford sat at her kitchen table with scissors in hand. She was snipping out recipes from the Farm and Home newspaper of January 1908. She loved to cook and collected recipes from a variety newspaper which she loved to scan. Woman's Farm Journal, The Practical Farmer, Hearth and Home and the Agricultural Epitomist all yielded their treasures. Martha had her own book to house her finds. An old copy of a bygone military book Military Commission to Europe 1855 was large and sturdy enough to store her growing collection which she pasted onto its pages or simply stuck between leaves.

Martha Mosford's book with its yellowing newspaper clippings was recently donated to the Grove City Area Historical Society. At first, some wondered how the book connected with Grove City, but a letter of April 9, 1903 from Grove City, Mercer Co. PA by J.C. Mosford to Mrs. F. B. Roberts, 13 Hull Street, Sharon, PA provided the clue. Martha Mosford had signed her scrapbook on the back page and the letter showed that she resided in the Grove City area in the early 1900's. The scrapbook included a pattern for "Dewey's Victory" quilt block and the letter told that "mother is quilting at 8:40 PM."



of fresh beef at d to good water and in small onion, a all sliced an (lined tened bis- w, adding plenty of crust left ch should lick, better crisp, del- 0 minutes, the more small, and l with the er bits of Maine.	a light brown. Excellent for nervous constipation. The addition of ½ lb finely chopped figs adds to their laxa- tive qualities.—[L. M. D., Michigan.	One pint milk two eggs, a pin- smooth in part o- ut beating, and the remaining m- tered dish; bak- whole top has ri- cream while wa-
To 1½ cups apple sauce (sweetened) add 1 cup sugar, ½ cup butter, 1 cup raisins (chopped and floured), 1 tea- spoon cinnamon, ½ teaspoon each of nutmeg, cloves or allspice, 2 level tea- spoons soda and enough flour to make as stiff as usual for cake. Bake in moderate oven ½ to ¾ hour. This cake is very nice and will keep well.— [Mrs S. C. S.	Apple Sauce Cake.	SOME DISHE
To 2 cups four milk add 1 teaspoon salt and enough corn meal to make a thin batter. Cover and set aside over night. In the morning stir in 1 tea- spoon soda, 2 eggs, 1 tablespoon mo- lasses. Stir well and fry on hot grid- dle well greased with lard.—[Mrs W. L., Louisiana.	Corn Meal Griddle Cakes.	"THIS chick I think me was cooked?" "No, indeed, lady. "I do n- cooks it this wa
Put 2 cups of vinegar in a double	Cream Mustard.	"Cut up the every pound of spoonfuls of fl- salt and one-q- Mix thoroughly in the mixture.

Each scrap of the past, when fitted together, helps form a fascinating window into times gone by. We now know that in April 1903, "A. F. McCurdys have got a few measles in the family and Orlando Thompson is down sick. Nancy Patterson is not able to work and wants to hire a girl to help Emma. The miners have had a short strike and went to work again at a slight advance."

Many thanks to Rex Klingensmith of Jackson Center who donated these items to the Society to enrich our understanding of Grove City's rich heritage.

Dr. David A. Armour

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH - MARCH



Dara Shirey

Two years ago, Dara and her husband, Linton, made the costly mistake of attending the Grove City Trade Show. The Grove City Historical Society was aggressively directing people into our booth's area to sell them a membership and/or one of our newly published books, Grove City, The Way We Were. They became new members and have been a definite asset to the Society ever since. Dara made the second mistake by expressing her interest in local history and genealogy. Last year, Dara co-chaired the display at the Trade Show. This year she chaired the display. Over the past two years we found Dara to be a "Jack of all Trades".

Dara has lived in Western Pennsylvania all her life and graduated from Mars High School in 1972. She states that Pennsylvania and American History have been her favorite subjects.

The one thing we found out is that no one tells Dara that she just can't do a particular job. She states that a similar remark was made to her when she was in high school and pumping gas at a local service station. The mechanics and auto body people told her she was not able to do the tough work at the station. She proceeded to show them by learning auto mechanics and auto body, a trade at which she became quite good. She has worked a long list of diversified jobs since high school. She has worked as: a camp counselor, an employee at an apple farm, pizza shop, aluminum siding fabrication, secretary, farming, carpentry, construction and her favorite job of "Researcher".

She has completed studies in genealogy and the history of Native Americans of Western Pennsylvania. She loves to craft and do interior design in which she is presently taking a course through the Internet. She has taught Sunday School (primary), Relief Society and Genealogy classes. She has been an assistant camp director for her Slippery Rock Church of Latter Day Saints, where she also has directed music for their Sunday services.

Along with her friend Sharon, she has put together school programs on "Living History" for elementary schools in the Butler County area for 10 years.

At the Society, she has built up a renewed interest in Genealogy and has organized the Genealogical Library.

She has designed a renovation plan for the kitchen, using early 1900's decor. She is helping install the new ceiling grid work and will install the textured ceiling. She is also planning to strip the paint from the cupboards and redo the floor. You will want to come in and see her finished work when we open on April 15th.

We love energetic creative people at the Society. We are very thankful to have Dara as a resident genealogist!!! You go girl !!

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

All volunteers are invited to attend the annual luncheon to mark the reopening of the Historical Society for the 2008 year. Training day will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2008. The program will begin at 11:00 with a welcome from newly elected President, Mr. Edward Carlson. Mrs. Anita DeMarco and her volunteers will join together to prepare the 2008 calendar of volunteer works and to share in a delightful luncheon.

At this time we will review the "how to" of volunteering at the Historical Society. Are you interested in becoming a volunteer? Please contact Mrs. Anita DeMarco and offer your services. She can be reached at 724-458-9499 or ajdemarco@zoominternet.net.

OPENING DAY

Join us as we begin our eighth year of service to the Community. Opening day is April 15, 2008. We welcome the general public to visit the Historical Society Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM.

Although we have been closed for the past three months, the volunteers have been hard at work improving the appearance of the building and continuing to update files and materials. Our volunteers give selflessly of their energy and time to maintain and improve the workings of our historical past. Volunteering is the backbone of this Society! Do you have an hour or two each month to do something worthwhile for our Community? Become one of the many ordinary people doing extraordinary things! Stop in and check us out!

We are pleased to offer the services of Mrs. Dara Shirey, Genealogist, every Tuesday or by appointment. She will be happy to assist you in your research.

WISH LIST

1. Information on Grove City's Lassie League (Girls softball during the late 50's). (It was sponsored by a men's social club). These girls were approximately 12 - 14 years old - Blue Jays & Cardinals were 2 of the teams. Pictures, information, news clippings would be greatly appreciated.
2. Other county history books.
3. American Revolutionary War Era, Civil War Era, War of 1812, World War 1. World War II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, and Desert Storm. (Any Grove City related memorabilia, uniforms, records).
4. The Grove City Scouting movement (Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts - uniforms, patches, awards, etc.)
5. Milk house equipment (separators, milk stools, butter making tools, items must be small enough to display).

MEET THE HOME ABSTRACT TEAM

The Home Abstract Team is a group of volunteers who work from their homes abstracting news items about local activities and events. Linda Beatty handles the Sports and Miscellaneous items from the Allied News and The Eagle; Annabelle Hall handles the wedding, engagements & anniversaries; Rose Menzies is responsible to photos of first birthdays; Lillian Millsop prepares the births of newborns; Jane Neyman abstracts the Sports clippings from The News Herald, and Virginia Taylor prepares the death abstracts and other items of interest to the community. These volunteers prepare this material for filing at the Library in the Historical Society by abstracting and pasting the news worthy information.

A SPECIAL PROJECT REQUEST

President Ed Carlson, a self-professed "horse nut," would like to begin putting together a photo essay on local favorite horses, teams, and breeding operations (horses and ponies) in and around the Grove City Area. If you have any photos, information, stories or newspaper clippings, please contact Ed or the Historical Society. Items may be sent, dropped off or emailed. Thank you in advance for assisting in this special project.

DON'T FORGET!
**WE ARE DEPENDING ON YOU TO
HELP US GROW! GRAB THE FORM
FROM THE PREVIOUS
NEWSLETTER AND SIGN UP 5
NEW MEMBERS TODAY!**

Grove City Area Historical Society

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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
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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:		DONATIONS:
Founding	\$1,000.00	\$
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PLEASE CIRCLE: new member renewal change of address

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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