



The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org

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September 2008

THE RENOVATED KITCHEN DEDICATION

September 9th was a very special day for the nine year old GCAHS. It marked the end of the last large renovation project on the first floor of the museum. The only project remaining is the renovation of the small powder room located just off the inner display room. Marty St. John is already hard at work planning this project.

As I look back over my short span of years with the GCAHS, I remember Don Beightol introducing me to the kitchen area. "Have you ever been back in the kitchen? Come here and let me show you. It is our next challenge." He went on to explain that this was a much needed display room.

My first look at the room was crushing. I really believed that it would take a lifetime to ready it for use. The room was filled with a large heavy duty printing table, a huge wooden closet, two old safes plus boxes and shelves piled six feet high with "stuff" in no specific order. There was only room enough to slide through to the corners of the room. Literally, it was a total mess. Don was not daunted by the work needed to correct the situation and he was convincing me that with a little paint, a lot of work and a minimum of cost, we could have another large display room.

Last winter, the makeover started after a lot of discussions and concerns by the Executive Committee. Dara Shirey devised a detailed design for the kitchen and volunteered her husband and her time to do many of the improvement jobs. We had some leftover funds on hand from the grants received from Alcoa. Mary "Skip" Sample continued to pursue grant monies promised but not yet received. Many of the accessions from earlier years but not given a storage room upstairs or the basement were moved to the inner display room. The young men from the George Junior Republic community service group, under the direction of Matt Louise, spent a Saturday carrying "stuff" to other areas of the building. They found us the room's floor space, but the heavy stuff was still a major holdup. Hank Limberg moved the biggest safe, the closet was disassembled, the borough employees helped place the table and other heavy materials in the basement. The USIS community service team scraped the walls and painted them with a fresh coat of paint. Dara and Skip determined that the kitchen would be representative of Grove City in the 1930's.

The floor was painted, the ceiling was replaced, new lighting was installed, new cupboards were purchased from Mast Woodworking, the remaining old cupboard was repainted inside and out, leaving samples of the original wallpaper highlighted in the inside walls of the cupboard. A 1930's sink was donated to us by Mercer Woodworking and a 1935 gas stove was donated by Joe Monteleone. The society purchased a '30's General Electric Frigidaire.

I really would like to tell you who did what, but space doesn't permit. I must single out two people for special recognition: Dara Shirey, co-chairman of the kitchen project, and Gary Forsythe, the building co-chairman, have contributed endless hours and talents to make this kitchen and accessions rooms a reality.

Major input was given by the following individuals: Mary "Skip" Sample, co-chairman of the kitchen committee; Linton Shirey; Dr. Thomas Armour; Marty St. John; Frank Hoffman; and Dean Kildoo, co-chairman of the building committee. Contractors Moon and Voltz helped us over several building obstacles.

Once again, the renovation of the kitchen is the result of many volunteers working together. A special thanks to those of you who stopped in and gave us encouragement by just saying, "It's coming along, and keep up the good work." If I have missed crediting anyone, please forgive me.

Please come in and enjoy that which your funds and work have provided for the future generations of Grove City.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Great Stoneboro Fair -- "always on Labor Day" -- and the start of the new school year, signal the end of summer and the beginning of fall for most Grove City Area residents.

The summer season has come and gone ever so quickly issuing in a new period for review of the successes and failures of our society.

We started the season with participation in Strawberry Days by sponsoring an art show by the local artists of the Lake Artist's Guild. We were disappointed that only two other downtown merchants chose to participate. The group had an excellent display, but the public's attendance was poor.

When the farmers market opened, we participated by keeping the society's museum open an additional three hours hoping that some of the hoped for crowd would come in and check out our display. Bad weather kept the number exceptionally low. When nice weather did arrive, the numbers did not increase, we are therefore considering canceling the extra hours for the fall.

Personally, I don't believe that our community realizes that the society changes our displays each year and arranges new accessions in cases as they arrive. The visitor count, as well as accession numbers, were down this summer.

A lot of action has taken place behind the scenes during the summer. Senator Bob Robbins' state grant of \$20,000 arrived earlier than expected. This allowed us to accept bids for the beginning stage of our second floor renovation. We had an excellent response from local contractors. In order to more fully understand the complexity of the bids, we searched out the advice of a mechanical engineer. The building committee awarded the wiring, heating and air conditioning to Lonnie Bess of Huzzy's Heating and Air Conditioning for the lowest bid. His bid was \$8,500 for the furnace, \$3,400 for the air conditioning and \$5,100 for the wiring, for a total of \$17,000. By the time you get this newsletter, his work will be under way. An additional bid to construct a new second floor furnace room for \$4,862.58 was awarded to John Moon Construction. The committee chose this higher bid due to its increased use of safety materials. The new furnace room is almost complete.

Dean Kildoo and Gary Forsythe have already moved the necessary electrical boxes to the second floor. Gary has moved massive amounts of waste material from room to room so as to paint probably six or seven rooms.

Wednesday, August 17th, with the help of the young men enrolled in the program at Pennsylvania George Junior Republic and a garbage truck provided by Tri-County Industries, a truck load of materials left over from the Travelers Hotel was removed from the building. This will make it much easier for making the new improvements.

Two things I must tell you: One is that the volunteer time and service given to the society by Gary Forsythe is insurmountable. Second is that we have received approximately \$2,000 in donations for our second floor fundraiser which will come to an end on the 1st of October. This amount should cover our expenses for making the second floor ready for development. We still will need funds to put up new ceilings and plaster board on the walls in some of the seventeen rooms. If you haven't made your donation for the second floor renovation, try to do so within the next month. We would really appreciate it. It will allow us to continue improving room by room for displays of our accessions.

The men's and women's clothing room is already being organized and readied for display, thanks to the work of Mary Ann McClinton and her small crew. The dedication by these ladies is a perfect example of how we hope the rest of the rooms will be developed. We will provide "a hoped for use" of the room and possibly a community group will adopt the room's purpose and develop the room as their community service project. Basically, we will provide a usable room and the artifacts we have been given and we will ask the group to build or furnish it with an appropriate storage and a public display of these materials. When completed, we will digitally photograph each item, place it on a card and/or disc usable on a computer or picture frame (to view the items) by those who cannot manage the stairs, thus making the second floor handicap accessible by modern technology.

We received \$595.00 in memorial funds for Don Beightol. The publications committee, under the co-chairmanship of Lillian Reeher and Jean Carlson have purchased a digital camera and digital camcorder along with two camera cards, a camera case and extra batteries, which will facilitate other GCAHS projects to be accomplished.

Recording Grove City's past and present events in a visual manner truly represents Don Beightol's life's work.

Coming this fall, we will be presenting a series of fall, one hour seminars we think you will genuinely enjoy. Try to join with us in our fall festival of history. We must thank each speaker for donating their time and talent to this project.

In closing, notice my new picture: you are making me smile because of your growing interests in our Grove City Area Historical Society.





Dara Shirey leads the Genealogy Seminar



Violet Covert speaks at the Genealogy Class



Violet Covert, author of Reflections of a Grass Widow, speaks at Genealogy Seminar.



Class of 1963



Daughters of the American Revolution



Delta Kappa Gamma



GCHS graduate, Nancy Shell, editor of Golf Digest, presented a special award in honor of Miss Ketler.



GCHS graduate Luke Laird speaks at 2008 GCHS graduation.



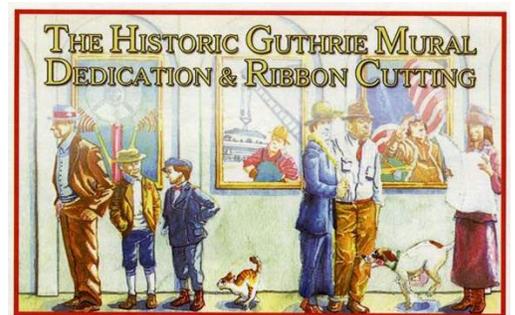
Van Norman's to speak on Moravian lifestyle.



Guthrie Mural Artists



Guthrie Mural Artist with Tom Armour



Guthrie Mural Postcard



Salute to Service Members window display.



Gary Forsythe reflects on his son's uniform in display window.



Salute to Service Members window display.



Salute to Service Members window display.



Vic Hughes Little League window display.



Tom Armour and Skip Sample accept ALCOA grant from Mark Rath.



GJR volunteers for 2nd floor clean-up day.



Second floor clean-up.



Second floor clean-up.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH



Dean Kildoo - September

Dean Kildoo is one of our best known members and volunteers. Every youngster who went through the Grove City schools knows and remembers him. He was the school district's head maintenance man for umpteen years. If something went wrong in any one of the schools, he was the one to call. Sometimes Dean would give you a serious look, or should I say a quizzical look as he listened to your problem. Whatever type of look it was, it always turned into a shy grin.

The young people in Grove City learned to love him. This is the Dean Kildoo I grew up respecting since my junior year in high school.

Here at the society, he continues to use his skills, as well as his knowledge concerning the proper maintenance of the building. Thanks to his advice as co-chairman of the Building Committee and a board member representing Liberty Township, our building is being brought up to standards.

In each of his work places, he has always found a likable and knowledgeable sidekick who's abilities he increases to live up to his standards. He reminds me a little of the Lone Ranger and his sidekick Tonto, trying to right what was wrong.

At the high school, the jovial hard working Bill Johnson was his sidekick. Here at the society, it is mild mannered, hard working Gary Forsythe.

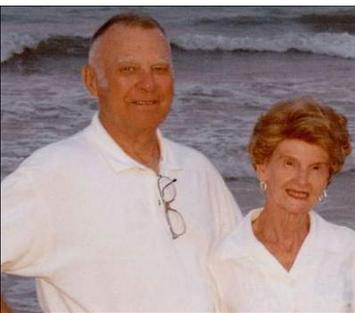
Well, enough rambling; let me share with you a number of facts about Dean.

Dean Brandon Kildoo was born in Grove City. His parent's names were James and Pearl Kildoo. He attended school for the first seven-and-a-half years of elementary education. The #4 School burned, so he finished 8th grade at the North Liberty School. He went to Grove City High School for four years. He then joined the Air Force in 1943 where he served on an air craft repair ship in Japan. On August, 28th of 1946 he married Betty M. Wyant. They had four children: Paul L., Marilyn J. Gatica (husband – Jorge), Ronald J. (wife – Suzanne), and Donald E. (wife – Betty). He has eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

His first job after high school was working for the state on Brent Road napping stone to build the road. His second job was with Wortman Electric wiring houses. Westinghouse Electric was his third place of employment, followed by wiring houses in Grove City for Mechler Electric. His fifth job, which lasted for thirty-three years, was at the Grove City School District. He is the busiest retired man we know. He is constantly helping someone with electrical problems.

Dean keeps himself busy maintaining a Purple Martin rookery. He is often called the Bird Man of North Liberty. He likes wood working, gardening and helping people do odd jobs. He is an active member of the North Liberty Church where he is a member and treasurer of the Willing Workers Sunday school class.

In closing, all I can say is, "Thank God for volunteers like Dean."



Ray and Jane Cornelius - October

October's Volunteers of the Month are a husband and wife team. Trying to remember when I first spoke to Ray with any depth of conversation, I came to the conclusion that it was when we had a discussion about local farmers, their locations and, in particular, what type of barn they had. Ray was quick to share his knowledge about the style of barns and, if possible, when they were built. When Ray is volunteering, he loves to engage visitors in conversations. If no one comes in, you will see him catching up on historical research.

Now Jane is very outgoing. She is never without a smile and she is always busying herself with the task of keeping the displays well dusted. If there is a volunteer assignment on the table, which is quite often, you can be assured it will be done before she and Ray leave.

They are a great asset to our willing volunteer staff. Now for the facts about our husband and wife team.

Ray was born in Grove City in 1926 but spent most of his years growing up on a farm on the Slippery Rock Road. He graduated from high school in 1944, then was in the Navy from 1944 to 1946, then attended Grove City College and graduated in 1950 in chemical engineering. He took a job with Armstrong Cork in Lancaster, PA. He was later transferred to New Jersey. He next went into sales and was transferred to Medina, Ohio, working for Brand Plastics. He next went on his own as a manufacturers representative. During these years he was very active in the Izaak Walton League, a well known outdoor group.

Ray and Jane were married in 1949. They have two daughters, one in Wadsworth, Ohio, and one in Lovettsville, VA. They also have three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Jane was born in Grove City in 1927 and spent most of her life here on North Broad Street. She graduated from high school in 1945 and went into the Cadet Nurse Corps from 1945 to 1948. Hers was the last class to be under that government program, so they got part of their education covered as Ray got his college covered from being in the Navy. She worked in the Medina hospital and then Orchard Manor when they moved back to Grove City. She went on to graduate from Presby in Pittsburgh in 1948. They moved back to Grove City in 1980 as Jane's dad was way up in years and Ray was going to retire. Jane and Ray agree, "It's good to be back here, and there's no place we'd rather be."

We are very glad they chose to return to their birthplace and make this their retirement community. Both are hard working volunteers and both share an interest in the past history of Grove City.



Jane Neyman & Jean Brown - November

Together, these two volunteers maintain our Museum Gift Shoppe. Due to these two women's dedicated work, we have an excellent gift shoppe handling only quality goods related to Grove City History. Their detailed monthly reports allow us to know exactly what financial assets they have available. Both ladies are relatively quiet individuals and are very pleasant to work and converse with. As you learn about their backgrounds, you will easily understand why they are so valuable to us.

Let's start with Jane Neyman and learn a little about the chairman of the museum shoppe since 2005. She was born in Somerset County and moved to the Grove City area when she was three. She attended Galloway School and graduated from Grove City High School. During World War II she worked at Cooper-Bessemer. She married and had four children; two boys and two girls. She worked at Langley's Dress Shop. When her husband passed, she went to work in Boyers until she retired in 1984. She belongs to the Methodist Church. Jean says she wouldn't trade her country home for anything.

Thanks, Jane, for just being you. You are a most delightful volunteer.

Let us now take a look at the other part of the team. Jean Brown, the secretary of the museum shoppe, is always busy organizing the records and checking the inventory. She is a very pleasant individual who always wears a wide smile.

Jean was born in Clintonville, PA, but the family moved to Grove City when she was one year old. She attended all three elementary schools in Grove City and graduated from Grove City Senior High School in 1943. Upon graduation, she was employed at Cooper-Bessemer in the inventory control office for three years, leaving to have a family. She was married to Donald E. Brown. Jean is a member of Grace United Methodist Church where she has taught 2nd grade Sunday school for thirty-two years. What a record! When the girls were older, she worked in the Girl Scout office and was a Girl Scout Brownie leader and then a Girl Scout assistant leader for ten years. She left those positions to take a job at Grove City Senior High School in the library office, retiring in 1988 after spending fifteen years there. During retirement, she enjoys volunteering. She now helps at the Methodist Church in the church library and also works in the clothes closet. She has bowled for twenty years and belonged to a line dancing group for several years. Currently, Jean belongs to the AARP kitchen band. She enjoys playing bridge and 500. Jean became a widow in 1998. She has two daughters (Dona Todarello and Nancy Reilly), five grandchildren (Erica, Emily, Jessica, Katie and Matthew), and four great-grandchildren (Sarah, Megan, Mia and Vincent).

As you can see, Jean must keep both her mind and body active.

This team is very compatible and we value them at the Grove City Area Historical Society.



VOLUNTEERS

The heart of volunteering is the key to the success of this Society. Our volunteers pledge a solemn commitment to support the continued development of the historical society and also aid in locating genealogical information for residents of the Grove City Area.

Our spirit of volunteerism is evident in the many services provided by our volunteers. Some of their services include categorizing the materials donated to the Society; preserving newspaper abstracts of local residents; offering genealogy services; handling, cleaning and sorting clothing; volunteers continue to work on the improvement of the building facilities; managing membership; preparing financial management statements; and maintaining the opening of the Society and the Museum Shoppe. There are numerous services that require our volunteers to lend a helping hand. We salute you and send a special prayer of thanks for your valued support.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND PLEDGE

This is a once only, (sorry, I lied, as this is a second reminder) soft approach asking our members and our community to pledge financial support toward the completion of Project Second Floor Renovation.

We will need an additional \$50,000, now only \$48,000 funding to make available the seventeen individual rooms usable for display and storage. This will include an audio/visual program for each room's display usable by the physically handicapped unable to climb the stairs and those visually handicapped who need to view objects close up. It will also help people desiring to use the facility for scanning researchable topics on display. This, along with our computer listing of all accessions, should provide the educational tools to allow for self education.

In April we received an additional \$20,000 state grant by Senator Robbins to ready the second floor utilities and redo several rooms (hopefully the front five in order to make them usable this fall).

We will also need additional show cases, built-in shelving and more storage units. Our long range planning committee for the second floor has proposed themes for each room.

Your generous help will be greatly appreciated. We welcome your pledge at any time, but our drive ends October 1st; and thank you for your help.

POLICY REMINDER

In order to take a burden off our volunteer's shoulders, we are issuing this reminder:

No donated materials can be removed from the premises once it has been accessioned (recorded and cataloged) both in the computer and our paper file by the accessions committee. A request for removal must be in writing, signed, dated and given to Frank Hoffman, Accessions Committee Chairman

Linda Beatty and Joe Montleone have been appointed as the nominating committee. See them if you wish to serve. They will report back to the board in November.

HISTORICAL MEMORY ALBUM

The Historical Memory Album continues to grow as the addition of Raymond E. Bryant memorial pages have been completed. The Album is a photo essay about local and nearby deceased residents. When someone dear to you has passed, their memory should never fade. Residents may submit their donation, a copy of the obituary notice and photos and memorabilia to the society for placement in the Album. Your loved ones memory will remain a part of our permanent records.

The final newsletter of 2008 will come to you in December. Please watch the newspapers for notice of our annual Christmas open house.

Grove City Area Historical Society

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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	\$50.00	
Family	\$40.00	
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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!**

PLEASE CIRCLE: new member renewal change of address

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YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENSURES OUR SUCCESS