



The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org

724-458-1798

gcchs@zoominternet.net

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GRANDMA LEFT THE LIGHT ON

Arrival day is fast approaching. "Arrival day for what." you ask? The first shipment of Grandma Left the Light On is due on November 20, 2009. We have been anxiously awaiting this day for a long time.

The Historical Society is planning a pick up and book signing on December 5th from 1:00 – 5:00 P.M. The authors, Lillian Reeher, Ed and Jean Carlson, Willie Caldwell, Tom Armour and Chester Coulter will be available at that time to autograph copies.

December 5th is also the date of the Olde Towne Christmas Open House. We are planning to have our member-only Wine and Cheese that day from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00P.M. Come and pick up your book and join us for some Christmas cheer with friends and neighbors.

If you have not preordered your copy of the book, they will be available for sale at this time.

WHAT A NICE CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO GIVE A FRIEND!

SPRING

We are still raking leaves at our house, but I am already thinking ahead to spring. The seminars this fall were well received, well attended, and enjoyed by many. Therefore, we have decided to have another series in the spring.

If you know of a topic that would be of interest to people, or are willing to give a seminar, let us know. We already have one tentatively set up. Lillian Reeher will give a presentation on the history of Grove City. Let us know your thoughts on other possible programs.

Remember, this is your Historical Society. Let's all work together.

And, don't forget! We plan to have another sidewalk sale next summer so, save your memorabilia and treasures. We made almost \$1600 last year. That was a wonderful surprise. Let's do better next year.

GENEALOGY

Genealogy is a big part of any historical society. If your family has a genealogy, or you are working on one, please consider sharing your information with the historical society. We have several genealogies already, but we would like to have many more.

We also have a genealogist who is at the headquarters the 4th Tuesday of each month. She is more than willing to assist anyone who is looking up their family tree!

Board of Directors

*Skip Sample, President
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*Frank Hoffman, 1st VP
Member-at-large*

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*Lillian Reeher
Member-at-large*

*Linda Beatty
Member-at-large*

*Joseph D. Monteleone
Grove City Borough*

*Debbie St. John
Newsletter Editor*

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Autumn is rapidly drawing to a close and with it the fall season at the Historical Society. We have been extremely busy. Any time you come in to the building you will find "things" going on. So far this fall we have had 5 seminars, hosted approximately 200 students from the 8th grade, had the Philanthropic Education Organization for a meeting, the Institute for Learning in Retirement here for lunch, and a cub scout pack meeting. This is in addition to the work being done on the second floor. As of now, 9 rooms are complete and bids are being received for the other rooms to be completed



The members of the board and I feel strongly that our headquarters is a public building. It was purchased with public funds and has been refurbished with public funds, therefore, it should be available for public meetings. If you are a member of the Historical Society, you may use the building for free. If you are not a member, we charge \$35. Anyone interested in using the building for a function must clear the date and the activity with a board member.

In another article, I mentioned that we just received a donation of the private aluminum collection of Connie Blakley. We were excited about this because we are hoping to focus our attention on the history of the aluminum business in Grove City. Our community, thanks to Wendell August, is the "Cradle of the Decorative Hammered Aluminum Industry!" We are, therefore, hoping to make this the key component of our museum. If you have pieces that you would like to donate or you know of someone who has pieces they would like to donate please let us know or bring the items to the museum.

In our long range goals, we plan to use one of the large rooms in the basement as an aluminum education room. We hope to set up a display on how aluminum is made, allow people to try their hands at making pieces and have an array of items on display. This would be a wonderful resource for our museum.

We plan to close for the winter on December 19th. Remember, we have our Museum Shoppe where you can purchase Christmas presents which have local interest. Some new items in the Museum Shoppe are note cards with artistic renderings by **Jeanne Behringer** and **Rev. William Bovard**. What nice stocking stuffers these items would be!

We also have copies of The Slate Roof Bible, a book which was written by Joe Jenkins. Joe is a local slate roof expert who is nationally known for his knowledge of slate roofs. This is an interesting book for people who love older houses and are interested in their construction.

PHOTOS



Will Knecht discussing Wendell August Forge



Mr. McAllister talking about coal mining in Western Pennsylvania



Gary Forsythe discussing the history of Cooper Bessemer



Some of the 200 Middle School students who visited the museum.



Institute for Learning in Retirement having lunch at the Historical Society

GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Board of Directors of the Grove City Area Historical Society have voted to reduce the number of board members. When the Historical Society was formed in 1999 we had 11 board members. There was 1 member from each of the 5 wards in Grove City, one member from each of the 4 Townships surrounding the Borough, plus 2 members at large. Somehow over the last 8 years the size of the board increased to 17. The suggestion was made to go back to what we originally had in the beginning. Therefore we are, over a period of time, reducing the number of members of the board by attrition. **NO ONE WILL BE ASKED TO RESIGN FROM THE BOARD** but as terms expire, members will not be replaced – except for a representative from the 4 Townships. The new board will have 4 members from the Townships, 3 from the Borough, and 4 at large. We have long ago moved away from a member from each ward in the Borough, so we do not feel that to be an important issue. Ward identity in the Borough is no longer as strong as it once was. We feel that with a smaller board we will be better able to facilitate the many projects we are undertaking.

In another matter, we are attempting to increase our number of Corporate Members. A corporate membership costs \$50 per year. Why should a business owner, or a professional person, become a member of the Historical Society? What do we do for them? This question has been asked as we have gone and solicited memberships. The answer to that question is in our mission statement: “The mission of the Grove City Area Historical Society is to preserve the history, heritage, and supporting artifacts of the Grove City Area.” If someone is a member of our business/professional community they should be interested in preserving our history. If each of you brings in one new corporate member we would go a long way toward meeting our financial obligations. When you approach a prospective member, take a newsletter and an order form for our new book. There is also a letter from me available in the library that you may take.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have several areas where help is needed. Next spring, Anita DeMarco will need more people to act as volunteers one day a month. We like to have at least 2 people at the Headquarters when we are open. Being a volunteer is like being a hostess. You greet people as they come in, answer any questions they may have and generally act as a “welcoming committee.”

Jane Neyman is retiring as the head of the Museum Shoppe. She has taken care of the Shoppe for several years, but feels it is time for someone else to take over. We will certainly miss Jane. Now we need another volunteer to take her place. Please think about this and let me or one of the board members know if you can take on this responsibility.

Marty St. John as head of Membership and Frank Hoffman as head of Accessions need help. Both Membership and Accessions are huge jobs. Monica Ondrusko helps Frank each week, but two people are not enough and they still need additional help. Someone needs to be available to take over if either Marty, Monica or Frank cannot do the job. All three plan to continue, but want someone to be aware of what they do, how they do it and when they do it, so that in the case of an emergency we have someone to take over. We are not anticipating an emergency, but they do happen.

The House Committee is working on the second floor. There is painting to be done and soon we will need to begin rearranging items. So, we need people to carry things around and put them in new homes! Each room on the second floor has been designated for a specific type of collection, i.e. agriculture, civic organizations, sports, veterans, college, industry, businesses, churches, commercial, Grove City Schools, vintage clothing, etc. Once all the rooms are complete, items that have been accessioned will have to be moved to their proper, long term home. Thus, we need many more volunteers

If you are interested in any of these jobs, please contact a board member.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GROVE CITY AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO WISH EACH OF YOU A
JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON**

RECENT ACCESSION

Members of the historical society were saddened by the death of Connie Blakley. Connie was our first board member representing Pine Township. She remained active with the society as a volunteer even though her health was failing.

One of Connie's most treasured possessions was a collection of hammered aluminum that her father, Joseph Sansotta, made when he worked at the Wendell August Forge in the 1940s. A long time friend of Connie's, Nancy Rankin was handling the estate and did not want to sell the aluminum. She petitioned the court to be allowed to donate the collection to the historical society. Permission was granted and the pieces came to the Society on November 18th.

We at the Society thank Nancy Rankin for her care of Connie's possessions and her thoughtfulness regarding our Society.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE RECENTLY JOINED THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Betty Hedegore
Carmel Lebate
Jerry Vondas
John Horne
Jean Helfinstine
Robert Helfinstine
Martha Morgan

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES:

Turner Insurance Agency
G & N Rodgers, Inc. Agway
County Market

CHARITABLE GIVING

AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT WE ARE A 501 (C) 3 ORGANIZATION. THIS MEANS THAT ANY DONATION YOU MAKE TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE. IF YOU ARE IN THE HABIT OF MAKING YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS, PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN YOUR LIST.

YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO MAKE A MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND OR A LOVED ONE.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It's hard to believe that I have been editing The Grove City Historical Society Newsletter for 6 years now! The Society has seen many changes in that time and so has this newsletter. A new logo on the front, going from a folded page format to single page and going from short 4 page issues to 16 page issues and back to 4 pages again are some of the changes we've seen. And now, we think it's time for yet another change. For this, we are looking for your help. We want to give the newsletter a name! So, here is your chance to show how clever you can be. Send your newsletter name suggestions to me by email at sahvahn@zoominternet.net or mail it to me at PO Box 35, Sandy Lake, PA 16145. We will choose from the entries on or about February 15th so we can use the new name for the March 2010 issue, so please send your entry soon! There might even be a small prize in store for the person whose suggestion is chosen! ~Debbie St. John

Grove City Area Historical Society

111 College Avenue
P.O. Box 764
Grove City, PA 16127
724-458-1798

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Museum and Gift Shoppe Hours
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	\$50.00	
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