



The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org

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1798 – CUNNINGHAM'S ARRIVE IN AREA

In 1798, Valentine and Margaret Cunningham arrived in the area now known as Grove City. They were looking for a place to build a mill. What they saw at the bottom of East Main Street Hill was just what they were looking for. They needed a source of water. The creek that was there was just the water supply they needed. They named the creek Wolf Creek because of the wolves who came each day for food and water.

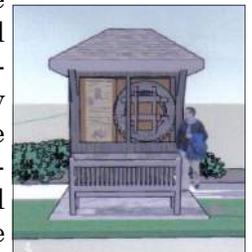


Some 200 years after the arrival of the Cunninghams, dams along Wolf Creek were removed. This caused the water level to drop. When that happened, students at Grove City College discovered a huge gear wheel. They dug it out of the creek and left it lay on the bank. After a time, the College moved the wheel to the unheated maintenance building on Madison Avenue. All these actions were exactly what should have been done to properly preserve this wheel. Had the wheel been allowed to dry out, it would have been damaged. As it was, the wheel is preserved in very good condition. The College, realizing this was a special find, gave the wheel to the Historical Society. Chris Tyner of Neshannock Woods and Co. was contacted to look at the wheel and tell us about how old it is. When Chris looked at it, he was surprised at its age and condition. From where the wheel was found and the age of it, it is most likely the main gear from the original Cunningham Mill.

The Historical Society has had Chris Tyner move the wheel to his work area in Leesburg. We have paid for him to do the preservation and the minor repairs that are needed. The wheel is white oak, and is about 60" in diameter.

Recently, two industrial archeologists from Youngstown University heard of the wheel and came to see it. They could not believe that it has survived and is in such good condition.

So, what do we do with a true artifact from our town? We are hoping to have the wheel displayed in Cunningham Mill Park on East Main Street. Chris Tyner has designed a display. The cost will be between \$9,000 and \$11,000. Grove City College has already donated \$5,000 toward this project. We are hoping to get the remaining money from Grove City Borough plus permission to put the display at the Park. Wendell August has agreed to provide a stainless steel plaque for the display. This is a true artifact from our history. Having the Borough, College, Historical Society and Wendell August Forge working together on this historical project will be a successful endeavor. We hope to have the project completed next spring.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Summer is rapidly coming to an end. By the time you receive this newsletter, school will be ready to begin and the days will be noticeably shorter. Both of these things mean that summer is ending and we are ready for another year of fall activities at the Historical Society.

Work activities this summer have been many. Renovations to the second floor are proceeding rapidly. We have eight rooms finished and we are ready to move items around so that we can begin to do the repairs to the remaining rooms.

Now, the job of setting up displays and providing storage facilities in the rooms that are completed must be started. We are planning to have people from the community meet to discuss what should be in each of the rooms. Rooms that need to have displays and storage arranged are: Grove City College and related items, Businesses, Veterans, Churches, Commercial/Industrial, Civic Organizations, and Grove City Schools. Other rooms yet to be finished are one for agriculture, and another for display items. Rooms for mining and aluminum will be in the basement. Almost finished are the men and women's clothing rooms. If you are asked to serve on one of the committees to furnish a room, please be willing to offer your assistance. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please let me or one of the board members know.

Almost any day that the society is open you will find many people busy doing "their jobs." The accessions people are working in the back getting new items catalogued, the members of the house committee are upstairs painting and cleaning, the clothing committee members are working on cleaning, repairing and storing the vintage cloths, the volunteers are filing information on people in the community and there are visitors enjoying the displays in the museum. All of this activity is in addition to the book committee that has been meeting almost every Saturday for the last two years.

As you can see from all that has gone on this summer, plus all that is planned for this fall, we are a very busy organization. As I said in an earlier newsletter, we should be very proud of all that we do and all that we have accomplished. However, we must constantly continue to work to keep our organization a vital part of the community. We must never sit back and say "how great we are!" Let others say that if they choose. We must continue to work to improve and expand our organization.



AUTUMN SEMINARS

This fall we are going to have a series of 5 seminars. Four will be held on Monday evenings: September 14th, 28th, October 12th and 26th and the fifth one will be held on Saturday September 19th at 1:00 p.m. The Monday evening seminars will be at 6:30 p.m.. As usual, cookies and punch will be available after each seminar.

The first seminar on September 14th will be Will Knecht, CEO of Wendell August Forge, speaking on the history of Wendell August and the aluminum industry in Grove City.

On Saturday, September 19th at 1:00 p.m. Andrew P. McAllister will present a program entitled: "Out Of The Ground: Western Pennsylvania's Coal Mining Experience." Mr. McAllister has made a coal video (memories of coal miners). He would like for local people who have coal mining memories and/or stories to come and participate in the program.

September 28th will feature "Patch" McClelland and Lawrence Bubeck talking about the Highland Band. Lawrence will be the piper for the evening.

October 12th Gary Forsythe will talk on the history of Cooper Bessemer. He invites former employees to come and share in the discussion. Stories of the "days of yore" will be welcomed.

October 26th Skip Sample will give a virtual walking tour of Grove City homes based on the Walking Tour the Grove City Women's Club published during the Bicentennial.

These discussions are varied and should be interesting. We hope you will plan to attend. They are open to the public.

GRANDMA LEFT THE LIGHT ON

By the time you receive this newsletter, our latest publication, Grandma Left the Light On, will have gone to press. We are very excited about this new book. Our first book, The Way We Were, gave us the history of Grove City. This book tells us about the people and the businesses that are/were in the buildings and houses. It should be an interesting and informative read.

Thanks to the support by members of the society and the community, plus what we set aside from the sale of The Way We Were, we have enough money to pay for the publication of this book.

When the book is ready for distribution we will have a "Signing Party!" Those of you who are patrons or pre-ordered a book will be able to come and have your book signed by the authors.

Watch the Allied News for the date of the book signing!

GCAHS ART CONTEST

American Festival held a “Green Grove City” Art Show during the Festival. The number of artists participating was disappointing but the quality of the work was exceptional. Only four of the eight categories had entries. The sponsors wish to thank the participating artists. Their works will remain on display at the Society’s Headquarters for a time yet to be determined.

The sponsors also wish to thank the judging artist from Pittsburgh, Debra Tomson Williams, who is employed at Landesberg Design. Mrs. Williams had this to say about the contest and its participants: “I looked for the magic. The exclusive something that makes one want to look at a work of art at least 2 or 3 times, rather than just once. I did not have a quick or easy time deciding on winning entries for this show. I’d encourage all of the artists to be active in local and regional art organizations, to enter competitions specific to their medium and interests, attend gallery and museum openings as often as possible, and to engage thoughtful artists in critiques of their work. But most of all, I’d like to encourage them to keep making.” The complete critique by Mrs. Williams is on display with the art works.

The categories and their winners are as follows:

WATER COLORS

1. “Girl Scout Cabin” by Lillian Reeher
2. “Fallen From Grace” by Lillian Reeher
3. “The Henderson Homestead” by Lillian Reeher

MIXED MEDIA

1. “Tree Quilt - My Earth” by Lillian Reeher
2. “Tree Bark” by Lillian Reeher

PHOTOGRAPHY

1. “Fountain in the Park” by Harriet Grossman
2. “Memories” by Harriet Grossman
3. “Gazebo” by Bob Price

OLDE TOWN (SPECIAL CATEGORY)

1. “Good Time in the Olde Town” by Harriet Grossman -- \$50 Award
2. “Heroes” by Harriet Grossman -- \$25 Award
3. “Sales in Progress” by Harriet Grossman -- \$10 Award

BEST OF SHOW

1. “Good Time in the Olde Town” by Harriet Grossman -- \$50 Award
2. “Heroes” by Harriet Grossman -- \$25 Award
3. “Girl Scout Cabin” by Lillian Reeher -- \$10 Award

PaHR-Access

A grassroots organization called **PaHR-Access** (People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access) is campaigning to have the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania make its state death certificates that are at least 50 years old become open records and to do what other states have already done and have them available online. You can learn more about this effort at: [Google PaHRAccess](http://Google.com/PaHRAccess). Having considerably greater access to these records would make doing genealogical research in Pennsylvania vastly easier. For more information contact Tim Gruber at: 610-791-9294.

SIDEWALK SALE

The middle of July and early August saw the headquarters of the Historical Society in a turmoil. We were collecting items for a sidewalk sale. We always try to keep the display rooms at the society neat and clean, but we were fighting a losing battle during this period of time. If you recall, we asked each member to donate at least 1 nice item for the sale. We were very pleased with what we received.



After a lot of work, our efforts were rewarded with a total sales of just under \$1600.

We have decided to make the sidewalk sale an annual event. It did not eliminate our financial shortfall, but we did put a dent in it and we all had a good time. So, as you clean out attics, basements and closets, keep us in mind for next year.



The current theme of the display window is Living With Aluminum and features many items from all the aluminum crafters of Grove City. Take some time to stroll by and see what treasures there are to see.



Fourteen members of the Grove City High School Class of 1949 gathered at the society for their 60th class reunion on August 22, 2009.

Grove City Area Historical Society

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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