

Historical Happenings

The Newsletter of the Grove City Area Historical Society

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org

724-458-1798

gcchs@zoominternet.net

Volume 10, Issue 1

March 2010

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CLOSING OUT 2009



The year 2009 ended with a bang. Grandma Left The Light On was published and ready for distribution. We had over 140 people come to a book signing during our annual Christmas Open House. It was a fun afternoon. Several new people came to visit, bought books and joined the society. Santa made a surprise appearance and had a good time greeting people. Refreshments provided by Cameron Catering were, as usual, delicious. The Society was decorated for the holidays and everyone was in the Christmas Spirit. When the doors at the headquarters closed for the Christmas/winter break everyone was excited about the way our new publication was being received.

Several local businesses, Burdick's, Daffin's, Kocher's, Hick's, Nelson's, Slovak Crafts, and Yard's Antiques, agreed to sell the books for us. We have had to replace books in most of the stores. Even though the winter was awful, people continued shopping at local stores and buying the books. Curling up on a cold winter night with a good book of local history was just what people seemed to want.

If you have not gotten your book, you can go to one of the local stores, or wait until we open on **April 13, 2010** and come to the headquarters to purchase a copy.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January was a very slow and quiet month at the GCAHS. Everyone needed time to recover from the holiday season and staying home was a way to deal with the cold and snow. However, this hibernation period ended in February. Work began at the headquarters in earnest. Plans had been in the talking stages for some time to rearrange the library and front room. The board decided that the genealogy part of our library should be in the front room and be more visitor friendly. Therefore, plans were drawn up to have a new desk built for the front room to look like the curved counter currently in our entrance. Making a desk with such a curve is no simple task. As this newsletter is being printed, John Mast of Polaski is working on this project. We also decided that we wanted book cases in the front room. We wanted these to be made out of oak and stained to match the oak on the stairway. Again Mr. Mast is building the book-cases.



As this was being done, we approached Frank Zingone to see if he had any carpet left that would cover the two front rooms. He had one piece which he sold us at a good price. Of course new carpet meant EVERYTHING had to come out of the two front rooms. A volunteer work day emptied all the book shelves. The BARJ boys from George Junior Republic under the supervision of Matt Louise came to our rescue again by moving the heavy things. Display cases in the front room were moved to the middle room. Display cases in the middle room were moved upstairs. Tables, chairs, computers were all moved. Since everything was being cleared out of the two front rooms, why not do some painting?

So the front room, the stairway, and the hall all received a new coat of paint. Dick Yard with his ladders and painting skill did the stairway. Linda Beatty, Jane Cleary, and Nanette McClelland painted the front room and hall. As this was being done, the wood on the stairway and the door frames were all refurbished.

We decided the library should have new window coverings. Jane Ford, who owns Plain Jane Curtains, agreed to make us new curtains. She found us some fabric that was just what we were looking for and at half price. So right now she is busy sewing our new curtains.

As I am writing this, the two front rooms are still empty. The carpet is in, the walls are painted, and the windows are washed. Beginning next week we will start putting everything back together. The BARJ boys are coming again to do the heavy lifting. They will be at the headquarters at 8:00 A.M. March 20th to put everything back where it should be.

We have not yet decided on a theme for the year, so we have not planned our displays. **APRIL 13, 2010, however, is our opening day.** There is much work to be done before that day. A few more volunteer work days and we will be ready to open. Everyone should plan to come and see our newly redecorated headquarters.

SECOND FLOOR RENOVATION

As you may recall, we received a \$25,000 grant from State Senator Bob Robbins to refurbish the second floor. All the rooms have now been dry walled and we are working to get them painted. Gary Forsythe has spent many hours painting. He has been joined by Linda Beatty, Jane Cleary, Paula Louise and Mike Messina. Each of the rooms on the second floor is going to be designated for a specific area of interest: e.g. College, Churches, Veterans, GC Schools, Civic Organizations, Commercial, Industry, Woman's Clothing, Men's Clothing, Agriculture and a few more areas yet to be designated. So, great progress is being made on this huge project.

This winter, when the building was closed, my husband and I would stop by to check and make sure everything was all right. An empty building in the winter can be a disaster waiting to happen. One day we went upstairs to find water on the floor of the Agriculture room. The gutter and down spout were frozen solid on the outside, melting ice had backed up and water was running in around the window frame.

Mops, buckets, waste baskets and elbow grease addressed the problem. But, not before a small amount of water leaked through to the kitchen ceiling below and the wall around the window was damaged from moisture. John Moon came and brought down as many icicles as he could and helped stem the flow of water. Now we have to address the repairs on the damaged wall.

There are many things to be thankful for in this situation. First was that we stopped in and caught the problem before serious damage was done. Second, John Moon was able and willing to come immediately, and third, we have flat sided waste baskets. We were able to put the waste baskets under the window sill so that as the water leaked in the window and down onto the window sill, it dripped into the waste baskets that were underneath. It is always good to look for the bright side of a difficult situation.

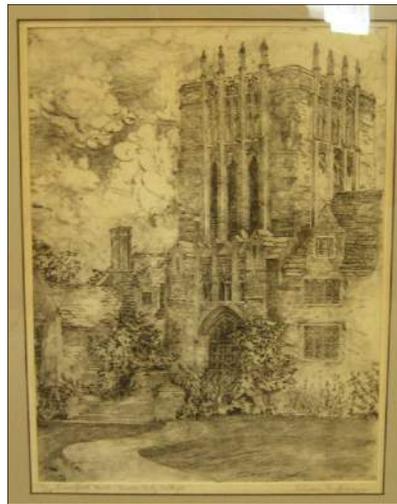
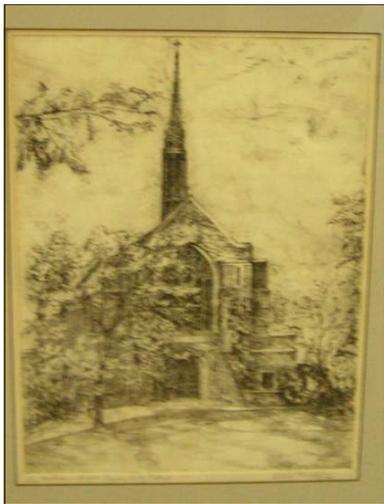
Would You Share Your Family History?

The Library Committee is planning to move the Family Histories section of the Library to the newly remodeled front room. We would like to expand this collection and are asking all members to share their family histories. A local "Family History" is extremely valuable – no matter what form it may take. If you have a one-page family tree, or a few pages of remembrances stapled together, or a binder with photos and narrative – we would welcome whatever you can provide.

These histories will be arranged alphabetically, by major family name, on the newly built bookshelves. Magazine boxes will be used to hold file folders, so don't worry if your materials are not bound. These will not be accessioned, so you need not fill out an accession form – just give them to the person in charge at the headquarters and the genealogist will put them in the proper place. We look forward to having your family history as a part of our permanent collection. Feel free to share this request with your friends and neighbors.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

The last day of 2009 found Bruce and Linda Bennett and my husband and me carrying boxes of "stuff" from the Library to the Historical Society. Over the years, many people brought items of historical significance to the library for safe keeping since there was no other place in the community to keep them. These items ranged from paintings by Margaret Williams and Maude Winder, a complete set of programs for the Literacy Club, scrap books for the Music Club, the Girl Scouts, the Arts and Literacy Clubs, Charles Elliot's catalogued information on many subjects, to records of the DAR and the AAUW. The items had been sitting in a storage room at the Library for many years. Linda Bennett retired at the end of the year, and felt that since there was now an historical society in the community these items should be transferred to their charge. What a wealth of items we received. It took over 2 hours to fill out the accessions forms for the material. We plan to feature the paintings of Margaret Williams and Maude Winder this year at the headquarters. Their paintings are of local interest and very lovely. Some of the accessioned items are on display in our window.



Two paintings that we received were done by Lilian Griffin in 1945. One drawing is of Harbison Chapel and the other is of Crawford Hall. No one seems to know who Lillian Griffin is. **Can anyone tell us about Lilian Griffin?**

Three of the scrapbooks have covers made of aluminum. Two of the covers were made by Jimmy Deponceau and one was done by Wendell August. All three are beautiful

works of art in and of themselves. What is inside these covers is a bonus.

The era of civic organizations being prominent in our community is waning. Fortunately, these groups kept excellent records of their membership, meetings and finances. All this information on our past is important for our history and without these scrapbooks this information would be lost. We thank Linda Bennett for being willing to store these items over the years and for turning them over to the historical society for posterity.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

It is always nice to welcome new people into our organization.

The following recently joined:

***Bill and Lynn Neely**

***Mike Messina**

***Grove City College**

***Mary Lou Rogers**

***Forta Corporation**

***Bob and Ellie Smith**

BASEMENT

Several months ago the Board of the Historical Society applied for a grant from State Representative Dick Stevenson for work on the basement. We want to take out the old furnace, cement the floor in one room, waterproof the wall along the alley, rebuild the back steps to the basement and several other small projects. Among the things proposed was to turn the room on the left at the bottom of the steps into an aluminum workshop. This will require redoing the walls and the ceiling. We want to have aluminum displayed and be able to set up a work area to show how the aluminum crafts are produced.

Aluminum giftware was started in Grove City by Wendell August Forge. Since we are the cradle of the hand hammered aluminum trade, we want to focus our museum on that craft. We want to put a room in the basement with tools and dies to show how the trade got started and how the items are made. It will be fun to have a work area where students and adults can come and pound their own item just like the employees do at the Forge. This area would be a museum as well as a mock work shop.

We received word within the month that our grant proposal was approved. We will be receiving \$20,000 within the next few months to do the necessary work in the basement. Both State Representative Dick Stevenson and State Senator Bob Robbins have been very generous with grants to our organization. We are very grateful for the support that we have received from the State government as well as the Townships, community organizations and the Borough of Grove City.

Many people grumble about "Walking Around Money" and the projects that are funded with that money. I can assure you that we can account for every penny that we have received and that the money goes to the project for which it was designated. We are the Grove City **AREA** Historical Society. Each entity within our community must work together to make this organization continue and flourish.

| Privacy Security Sign Off Last Sign On: Monday, March 8, 2010 at 8:38 a.m. Email: GCAHS@ZOOMINTERNET.NET Edit | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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*Checking account balance reflects amount in account before bills for front room were paid.

STATUS OF OUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As we prepare to open for a new season, we evaluate our finances and how we are operating as an organization. Our main source of operating funds is our dues. The income from membership dues accounts for about half of our operating budget. Therefore the shortfall, which is between \$4,000 and \$5,000 each year has to be made up in other ways. Last year we had a sidewalk sale. It was a big success. We raised almost \$1600. We are planning to have another sale this summer. We are asking each of you again to donate items for the sale. We do not want clothes, but we want nice antique type items or usable things that you no longer use. My husband and I have already started a box for items that we will not be using again. We have not decided on a date for the sale, but it will be sometime this summer. We will let you know in plenty of time so that you can get items to the headquarters. We are waiting to see if Grove City is planning a parade, a street fair, or some event in the down town of which we could be a part.

We also ask you to donate items that we use on a regular basis: cleaning supplies, stamps, paper products, any office supplies, and of course money . We have had major expenses this spring refurbishing the front of our building. So, any financial contributions would be appreciated.

Elsewhere in this newsletter I talked about the grants which we have received and are going to receive. So, with all the money coming in from the State, why are we asking for financial donations? The money from the grants can only be used for the specific items listed in the grant application. None of the grant money can go to general operating expenses. Our operating money comes from membership dues, donations, fundraisers, and the profit from the sale of our books and items in the museum shop. At the end of each project funded by a grant, we must give a complete account for all monies spent.

The cost of the annual banquet is remaining at \$25. Does the dinner actually cost that much? No! By attending the banquet you are supporting the historical society. This is not a fundraiser, but we do want to cover our costs. So, the \$25 goes to pay for the dinner, the cost of guests, paper products, janitorial services, and any incidental expenses which occur. East Main Presbyterian church does not charge us for the use of the building. We give a donation to the custodian who sets up the rooms for us. If we do show a profit, we put 10% of the proceeds into our endowment fund. Any fundraiser that we have, we put 10% of the profits into the endowment fund. We have been doing this since we were founded. We currently have about \$11,000 in that fund.

OUR NEW NAME

The newsletter has a new name, as you may have already noticed! Congratulations to Ellie Kendall for her winning submission. Thank you to all those who submitted ideas for our publication's new name. There were a lot of neat ideas but we can only have one name! Thanks again!

VOLUNTEER - STAY CONNECTED

As the Society ventures into a new year, it is time for you to give your time. The volunteers have made significant positive changes to enhance the development of our Society. We are now exploring new ideas to operate more effectively.

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteers are an integral part of our organization. As a volunteer, you can assist us with opening and enriching new pathways to a finer and more useful Society.

WE NEED YOU!

Do you have three hours to give? Your service is needed to help us all stay connected. Our current volunteers have spirit to serve in many capacities. Add your strength to their strength and support our development.

WE NEED YOU!

Contact Anita DeMarco at 724 458 9499 or e-mail at ajdemarco@zoominternet.net.

HISTORICAL MEMORY ALBUM

The Historical Memory Album is a photo essay about local deceased residents. Their memory is preserved with photos and information provided by the people who loved and admired them the most. Recent additions to the Album include:

- ◆Mrs. Marian Dick - a tribute of honor from her Thursday afternoon bridge group.
- ◆Ms. Connie Blakley - a life member of our Society
- ◆Mr. Patsy DeMarco - a life member of our Society

We invite you to visit our newly remodeled Entrance room and Library and browse through the Historical Memory Album. They may be gone but they are not forgotten.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



Winter was very hard this year. Snow removal from the sidewalk in front of the building has been a constant problem. The board members are at the headquarters, but not on a regular basis during the winter. But, the side walk must be constantly cleared. We were very fortunate this winter to have Kim Kelly, who owns KIMBERLY'S ULTRA CLASSIC CUTS next door, agree to do our sidewalks. She is at her shop every day, and

as she did her sidewalks she came up the block and did ours. What a relief to know that the walks were taken care of. A very special THANK YOU to Kim Kelly for doing our walks.

Grove City Area Historical Society

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Museum and Gift Shoppe Hours
 Tuesday-Saturday 12:00PM - 3:00PM

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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
 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!**

YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENSURES OUR SUCCESS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

PLEASE CIRCLE: new member renewal change of address