

Historical Happenings

The Newsletter of the Grove City Area Historical Society

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently I was asked about the beginnings of our Historical Society. They wanted to know how we got started and who were our first members. It has been 12 years since we were incorporated, so maybe it is time to review our beginnings.

During our Bicentennial Celebration in 1998 people reflected on the interesting history of our community. People from the Bicentennial Committee discussed the possibility of forming an historical society. After several meetings, it was decided to call a community meeting to see if anyone, other than a few of us, was interested. About 25 people came to that first meeting. From that group we got our first board members. I served as president for one year just to get everything organized. Mike Adams was the Vice President. Joan Foster was the 2nd Vice President. Ellie Kendall was the Secretary and Eleanor Covert was the Treasurer.

We decided to have one board member from each of the five wards in Grove City, one member representing each of the four townships and three members at large. Pine Township was represented by Connie Blakley, Wolf Creek Township by Sue Stamm, Liberty Township by Anne Dayton and Springfield Township by Barb Howard. Tom Armour, Chuck Bestwick and Bonnie Adams were the members at large. The members from the Borough were John Hummel, Chester Young, Bill MacTaggart, Ray Morley, Mike Coulter and me.

It was initially agreed that each member would serve for a three year term. Since we were all appointed at the same time, it meant we would all go off the board at the same time. To solve this problem, we each drew a number: one, two, or three. If you drew a one you would serve for one year, a two you would serve for two years, a three you would serve for three years. Thus began our board membership rotation.

We received our Articles of Incorporation on December 16, 1998 thanks to the efforts of Miff McBride. We received our Tax Exempt status of June 3, 1999 thanks to the efforts of Dick McGill. On January 5, 2000, Grove City Borough gave us a \$65,000 donation with which we purchased the Traveler's Hotel. Grove City Borough also gave us about \$30,000 that was left over from the Bicentennial Celebration. In the first year we had accomplished a great deal.

In order to raise funds and get people to join, we established a fee schedule for membership. Founding Memberships were \$1,000. Life Members were \$500. Corporate Members were \$250 (now changed to \$50). Family memberships were \$40, Individual, Senior, and Student members were \$10. These membership categories have remained.



This picture shows several of our original Founding and Life Members taken at one of the first banquets.

We were very fortunate to have a large group of people who were willing to do remodeling work on the headquarters. The work that started in January, 2000 is still going on. The volunteers who did the original remodeling have changed, but the work continues. We are all very proud of what we have accomplished in 12 short years.

VOLUNTEERS

The year 2011 is rapidly drawing to a close. As we look back over this time, a lot has been accomplished. We have made great strides with setting up display rooms on the second floor. We continue to work accessioning donated items and making sure they are properly recorded on the computer and placed where they belong in the headquarters. We also make sure we have volunteers to keep the museum open 5 days a week: Tuesday through Saturday from 12—3 PM. This means that we need to have many volunteers. We like to have at least 2 people working at one time. Over the years we have had many dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers, but we are now finding that we are in need of additional people. We are asking for people to volunteer to help 1 day a month for 3 hours. When you volunteer there are tasks that can be done—filing information about members of the community, greeting visitors and showing them around the museum, or sitting and reading the wealth of information we have in our libraries.

So, if you have a little free time, please consider volunteering at least 1 day a month so we can keep our headquarters open. We are open more than most historical societies, we hope we can continue to do so. If you wish to get on the volunteer list for next year, call one of the board members, or the headquarters at 724-458-1798.

We will be closing for the year on December 17th. We will reopen on April 11, 2012. We hope to hear from you that you would like to be a helper. We have an orientation lunch prior to opening, so that you have the opportunity to become familiar with new displays and know what is expected of you when it is your turn to work.



JONATHAN RIDDLE

Recently, I emailed Jonathan Riddle to see how he is enjoying college life. I had a very positive response.

He has settled nicely into his apartment which is partially furnished with items from our sidewalk sale. He has found a church where he feels “at home” and he is enjoying his classes. All in all he seems to have adjusted to life at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

We all miss Jonathan and wish him well.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

At the end of each year I ask that you consider making a “year end” contribution to the Historical Society. Since we are a tax-exempt organization, any contribution you make can be written off on your taxes as a charitable donation. As you can see from the Financial Statement, we now have invested some money with the Community Foundation of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio. We made this move last January for two reasons. First, we hoped to get a better return on our investment, and second, we hope that people will contribute to our long range funds.

We have three funds: Endowment, Executive Director, and Arthur Armour. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is that at some time in the future we can take interest off the account to help with our operating expenses. The purpose of the Executive Director Fund is that, again in the future, we can hire a director to run the organization. The Arthur Armour Fund is a small fund where money is donated in memory of Arthur Armour. It is to be available if Arthur Armour’s son, Tom, decides to publish a monograph or book about his father. All three of these accounts are long range undertakings. All three are managed by local brokers: Cashdollar and Associates and the Neely Group. Each year we put \$100 a month into the Endowment and Executive Director Funds. We also contribute 10% of any fundraiser to the Endowment Fund. If you wish to make a contribution to the Foundation, you can mail it to: The Community Foundation, 33 Chestnut Street, Sharon, PA 16146 and indicate where the money is to be placed.

As I have mentioned, each year we have about a \$5,000 shortfall that must be made up. We have been very fortunate in the past that we have met our expenses thanks to contributions from the townships and individuals. A small extra contribution when you renew your membership adds up. We do not want to raise the costs of memberships so we must work hard to make up the shortfall. With your continued support, we will remain financially viable.

PRINTING PRESS FROM YOUNG'S PRINTING

In 2002 Young's Printing, a local business of many years, closed its doors. Shortly after they closed, an auction was held to sell off all the printing equipment. This was equipment that had been used since the 1890s. Toward the end of the auction, a small printing press came up for sale. Tom Armour bought it for about \$100. It was brought to the Society and put in a corner of the first floor where it sat for several years. As we remodeled, we had to often move the printing press which was not an easy task. Finally, we had to move it to the basement.



As we plan for the use of the basement, what to do with the printing press became a challenge. We decided to have it set up and in working condition since it was still being used at the time the business closed. We had a man come and look at it and we are going to attempt to have it put together over the winter. Putting the pieces together is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle, but we have all the pieces. Our plans for the basement are not yet complete, but they do include a printing press from Young's Printing. Stay tuned to see what else we plan for the basement.

NOVEMBER 12, 2011



Saturday, November 12th was a fun afternoon at the Society Headquarters. It was the Christmas Open House and the dedication of the rooms on the second floor. It was an opportunity to recognize and thank State Representative Dick Stevenson and State Senator Bob Robbins for their financial support by helping us receive grants to refurbish our building. It was also an opportunity to thank Terry Farren, former Borough Manager, for making it possible for the newly formed Historical Society to receive a \$65,000 donation from the Borough to purchase the Traveler's Hotel. Without the support of these men the Historical Society would not have accomplished as much as we have.

Over 100 people came to the Open House to visit the rooms on the second floor, enjoy good food and the friendship of many.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From the Grove City Area Historical Society!

NEW AND INTERESTING ACCESSIONS

The accessioning of items donated to our Society is one of our most important activities. Collectively, they represent much of the history of our area.

These are some of the interesting items that have been recently accessioned.



Will Ellsworth of Mt. Vernon, Ohio found a large double horsehead logo in the back of the former Cooper plant in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. This was the logo of the Bessemer from the late 20s or early 30s. He called and asked if we would like to have it. Of course we would. However, when we found out how large the logo was, it was impossible to fit in our headquarters. So, what to do? We called Tom Noone, owner of Cooper Industrial Commons, to see if we could "loan" it to him. He was thrilled to receive it and now has it standing in the Hogg Yard on Lincoln Avenue. Drive by and see it. It is impressive!

This weekend a painting done by Robert Herrle arrived. It is a beautiful painting of a Bessemer train engine. The painting came from Heidi Adams, who is Robert Herrle's daughter.



Georgie Hodge, an avid collector of Wendell August items, gave us a gate that came from a bank in Emlenton. We hope to make hammered aluminum items a focal point of our museum and this is a nice addition.

Mary Jane Winder brought in a painting she did of the Chestnut Ridge One Room Schoolhouse. It fits right in with the seminar we had recently and the renewed interest in these schoolhouses.



Priscilla Lynch is a collector of WWI posters. She gave us two wonderful posters from this era. They are a fine addition to the Veteran's Room.

Martha Beatty Dunlap and Toni Walters each gave us paintings done by Maude Winder of water wheels. They are not the same water wheel, but the paintings are the same size and they are in identical frames. What great additions to our collection of the works of local artists.

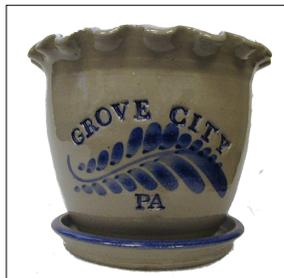


MUSEUM SHOPPE



Here comes Santa Claus, Here comes Santa Claus, Right down Santa Claus Lane—to the Historical Society Museum Shoppe! Here you can do a lot of your Christmas shopping. You can get an apron for Grandma, a sweatshirt for Grandpa, a book for your friend, and stationary for everyone.

We have many interesting items available. We have prints by Maude Winder that are of Grove City College scenes, and nature scenes by Margaret Williams. We also have stationary by Jeanne Behringer, Rev. William Bovard, Maude Winder and Margaret Williams. So, stop in and see our selection of gifts and do your shopping at the Historical Society!



FOOD FOR FOOD PANTRY

This year the Historical Society is again helping collect food for the Food Pantry. We are partnered with Tower Presbyterian Church. The tree in the window will be decorated on November 28th. Please bring food and/or paper products to put under the tree. Last year we had a great amount of food donated. Let's do even better this year.

Here's an idea: Bring your food contribution and visit the Museum Shoppe at the same time!



MEMORIAL MEMORY ALBUM

One of the nice things we have at the museum is two volumes of a Memory Album. When someone dies a family member or a friend can sit down with Anita De Marco and give pictures of the person and tell a little story about them. Anita then makes up pages with this information. It is wonderful to sit and look through these books.

If there is someone for whom you would like to donate pictures and give information about, please contact Anita. She has moved from Grove City, but if you contact the Society headquarters or a board member, we can get you in touch with her. Stop in and look through the books. They will bring back memories of old friends.

ONE ROOM SCHOOLS

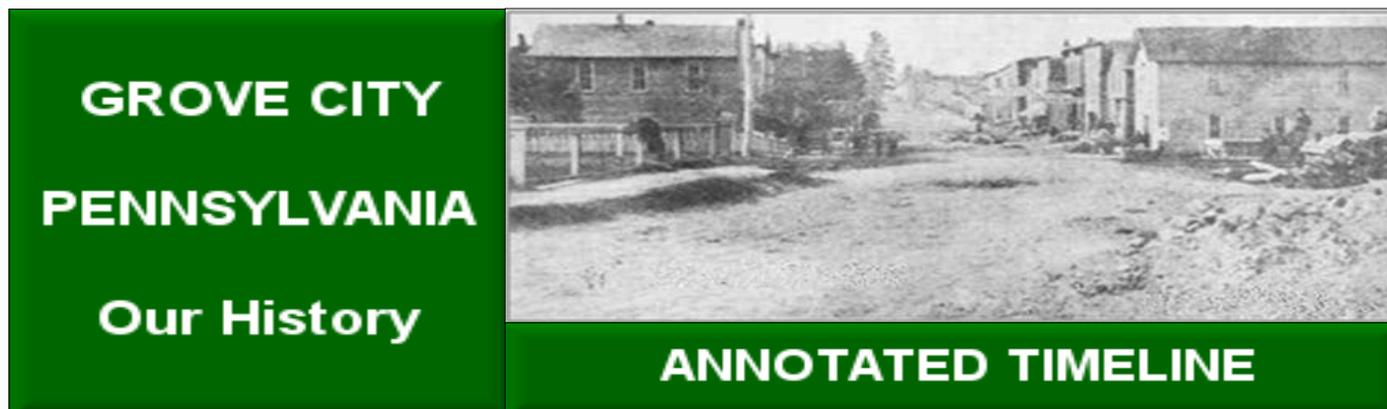
There has been a revival of interest in the one room schools from days of yore. Recently the Historical Society had a seminar on this subject. Bill Philson, of the Mercer County Historical Society, gave us a DVD with all the pictures he has of the one room schools in Pine, Liberty, Wolf Creek and Springfield Townships. From these pictures a CD was made for the seminar. If you would like to have a copy of the DVD that was received from Mercer County, you can order one by contacting our Historical Society at 724-458-1798 or Skip Sample at 724-458-8413. The cost of the DVD is \$10.60 (\$.60 tax). Half of this money will go to the Mercer County Historical Society and we will keep half. The DVD has many class pictures, often with names. It also has class reunion pictures as well as pictures of many of the schools.

It is hard to believe that the four townships had 37 one room schools. Of those schools, 11 are still standing. Pine Township had 13 schools. The Hemlock, Pinch-a-long and McCoytown Schools are still standing.

Liberty Township had five one room schools. One serves as the Liberty Township Municipal Building and three are homes. One burned and was not rebuilt. Springfield Township had 16 such schools, of which three are still standing. Mt. Union School is now a home, Blacktown School is used by a local band for practice and the London School is vacant. Wolf Creek had three schools. One was still standing as a home, but recently burned and probably will not be rebuilt.

From the reaction of the people who attended the seminar for the One Room Schools, they bring back many happy memories.

Our Library has a copy of the book by Mae Berringer, titled One Room Schools of Mercer County. She was known as Joanie Appleseed. You may stop in and look through the book. It is also available for sale at the Mercer County Historical Society.



HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEWEST FEATURE ON THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE?

If you haven't visited the website in a few months, then you've missed seeing the newest feature, Ralph Packard's Annotated Timeline of Grove City. Just go our homepage, <http://www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org> and click on the "History of Grove City" menu button. A wealth of reading awaits you! He has accumulated information dating back to the beginning of Grove City in an interesting and easy to read format, complete with photos, maps and diagrams. Check it out!



**The Grove City Area
Historical Society will be
closing for the year on
December 17th.**

**We will re-open on
April 11, 2012.**



**Check out our newly
re-designed website at:**

<http://www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org>

**Lots of great new content and
easier navigation designed to
help us serve you better!**

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE YEARBOOKS

Fund raising is a topic I talk a lot about since we have a monetary shortfall each year. Recently, we came up with a new attempt to enrich our bank account—selling Grove City yearbooks on the internet. In the past we have sold duplicate books for a nominal amount or asked for a donation which people have been happy to give. We discovered that yearbooks are sometimes bringing good prices on eBay. Therefore, we are going to attempt to “cash in” on this source of revenue. We have a college student who is putting the books on eBay, following their progress and then mailing them to the buyer. We have already sold 1 book for \$21.60. If you have a local yearbook that you no longer need or want, please consider giving it to us.

The first thing we do is see if it is one we need. If it is one that we do not have, it will go into our library. We are in need of early College and High School yearbooks. We also need some recent ones. The Oujas that we need are any volumes published before 1913. We also need 1937 and all books from 2001 to the present. (In 2001 the name was changed to The Bridge.) The Pine Knots that we need are any volumes published before 1924. Also, we need 1967, 1971, 3, 4, 7, 9, 1980, 1, 3, 9, 1991, 2, 4, 2000, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 2011.

If we find that we already have the year that has been donated, we will determine which book is the better of the 2 and we will keep that one, then offer the other one on eBay. This way we can complete or upgrade our collection AND have a nice fundraiser.

If you have a strong attachment to a book, but are willing to donate it, let us know and we will keep it in our permanent collection. Any donation made to the Society gives the donor the option of allowing us to sell the item, or return it to the donor if it is a duplicate or does not pertain to the Grove City Area.

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.
Founding and Life Memberships are payable over 3 years.

Make Checks Payable To: Grove City Area Historical Society

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!**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:	
Founding	\$1,000.00
Life	\$500.00
Corporate	\$50.00
Family	\$40.00
Individual	\$20.00
Student / Senior	\$10.00
	\$

DONATIONS:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____
EMAIL _____

PLEASE CIRCLE: new member renewal change of address

YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENSURES OUR SUCCESS