

# Historical Happenings

## The Newsletter of the Grove City Area Historical Society

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org

724-458-1798

gcchs@zoominternet.net

Volume 13, Issue 1

April, 2013

### Board of Directors

*Linda Bennett, President  
Member-at-Large*

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Grove City Borough*

*Lillian Reeher  
Member-at-large*

*Mary "Skip" Sample  
Grove City Borough*

**Representative Needed**  
*Wolf Creek Township*

## WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?

Volunteers at the Historical Society would be glad to assist you with genealogy research. Year round there are three people who can help you find out more about your ancestors here in Grove City, or elsewhere in the world. Don Cook and Jane Cleary are available two days a month at the headquarters when it's open – on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. They can also respond to email or written requests at other times.

Cathy Coulter is our newest genealogy volunteer who can help you learn more about your family history. For extensive, in-depth searching, Cathy is also available for a consulting fee of \$15.00 an hour. She is able to assist with searching county court house land records and wills and she has extensive experience in researching immigration and Civil War records.

The Historical Society has a subscription to Ancestry.com, one of the world's largest databases for family research. It has US and state census records, online books, military collections, public member family trees, passenger lists, immigration and naturalization records, birth/marriage/death records, as well as 1 billion records from 15 countries outside the US. If you wish, our genealogy volunteers can help you learn how to search Ancestry.com at the headquarters and get you started in your own searching.

Cemetery records for Mercer County are also available at the headquarters. Family histories, donated by community members, are alphabetically arranged near the cemetery records in the front room. In addition, in the Historical Society library there are wonderful county histories, old street directories, books of local history, photograph albums, books by local authors, and old maps.

Visitors may search our Ancestry.com database for free whenever the Society is open, beginning Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday – Saturday, noon to 3:00 pm. To request assistance, contact Jane Cleary, [cleary2@zoominternet.net](mailto:cleary2@zoominternet.net) (or by phone at 724-748-3044).



**The Grove City Area Historical Society  
will open for the year on  
Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**Stop in for a visit and see all of the  
wonderful new displays and accessions!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored to become the next President of the Grove City Area Historical Society. Grove City has been my lifelong home of which I am very proud. I am also filled with heartfelt respect for the members and volunteers who have worked so hard to bring the society to this amazing place in time as a growing historic organization. As our Mission Statement says, you truly have been: "Preserving the history, heritage and supporting artifacts of the Grove City Area". Compared to other such organizations, it only been in a short time since 1998!

The society headquarters is an amazing place and you all should be very proud of all that has been accomplished. It is my hope that we can continue to share our talents to help people engage with the past. We are trusted keepers and tellers of our story and this trust must be nurtured and built upon if our organization is to thrive so our community can enjoy our history's gifts in the years ahead. People want what history organizations can give them: displays of real, tangible items from the past and the human, personal stories to see, hear and think about. It should be an accessible, welcoming place where families, friends and strangers can find information about where we came from, who we are, and how we got to be that way. Our community has a history and so does our nation, families and human groups of every sort and it all ties us together.



*Linda Bennett, President*

Speaking about accessibility...we are getting closer to having an accessible way to get everyone transported to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor display rooms! The cost is \$4,850.00. A portion of the John A. Sample memorial funds will be added to the \$1,000.00 seed donation we received last year. Additional donations will be gratefully accepted.

Plans are being made for Tom Armour to set up the Aluminum Room with \$4,000.00 of the donations received in memory of John Sample. Skip Sample is willing to contribute an additional \$500.00 if needed to complete the room for the display of the Grove City hammered aluminum pieces and an educational workshop area to demonstrate how it is crafted. Once this room is completed, we hope to have a chair lift down to the basement level. The expected cost of this lift is \$3,200.00. It will enable us to have accessibility to the lower level as we expand our use of that space. We have so many more stories to tell about Grove City's past!

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### **Community Foundation Annual Report Balance as of 12/31/2012**

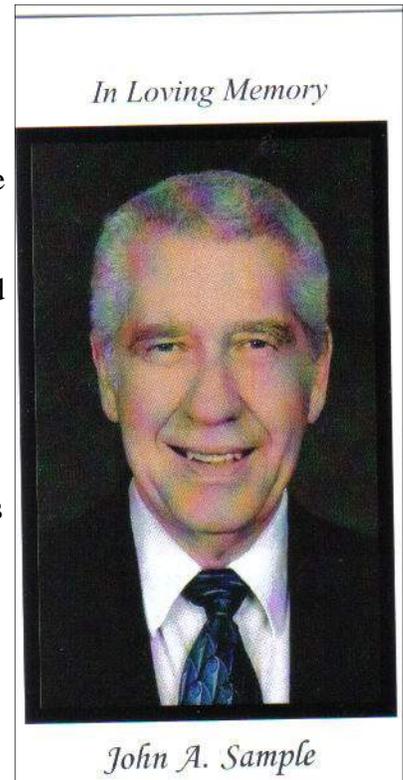
Endowment Fund	\$13,321.53
Arthur Armour Fund	\$1,410.80
Executive Director Fund	\$12,197.36

## JOHN A. SAMPLE MEMORIAL

I am sure you all know December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day and was termed "A Day That Will Live in Infamy" by the President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. As my husband John and I were sitting having our morning coffee on December 7<sup>th</sup> we discussed this date. Little did we know that December 7<sup>th</sup> would become a day of infamy for us. This is the day my husband died peacefully in his chair as I was getting dinner.

Since we were not going to have a viewing at a funeral home, we decided that in lieu of flowers we would ask friends to make a monetary contribution to the Grove City Area Historical Society. As of this writing, over \$5,400 has been donated.

Our family discussed what to do with the money. We wanted to have a permanent memorial. One of the things being planned at the headquarters is an aluminum room in the basement. The cost of this room is projected to be between \$3,500 and \$4,500. John enjoyed and appreciated the hammered aluminum of the Grove City Area. He felt this should be the focal point of our museum since Grove City is the birthplace of the hammered aluminum industry. He was excited about the plans for this room. With this in mind our family decided to fund this room and have the room to be in his memory.



The money that is left over will go toward the installation of a chair lift to the second floor. A chair lift will cost \$4,850. Last year \$1,000 was donated to the Society as "seed money" for an elevator. A chair lift will serve the same purpose as an elevator but at a fraction of the cost. Any extra money needed for the chair lift will come out of Historical Society funds.

Michael, Joseph, Becky and I wish to thank everyone who contributed to the Historical Society in John's memory. We are honored by the response.

Mike, Joe, Becky (Cameron) and Skip Sample

### Volunteer Orientation and Luncheon

Saturday, April 13, 2013

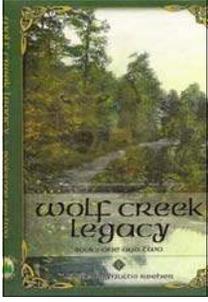
11 AM to 1 PM



Volunteers are needed to keep our museum running smoothly.

Come join us and find out how you can help!

## *Wolf Creek Legacy* TO BE AVAILABLE ONCE AGAIN



*Wolf Creek Legacy I and II* is a history of the Scots-Irish in our area, written by Lillian Reynolds Reeher, in the early 1980s while she was a writer for the Allied News. Lillian spent hours upon hours interviewing local folks who were in their 80s and 90s in order to write about life along Wolf Creek in an earlier time. Because the folks were descendants of generations who were native to the area, *Legacy* is the sole record of our area, written in the tradition of oral history.

Its pages hold dear the words of such respected people as J.H. "Smack" Montgomery, Sam Hunter, Orlo McCoy, Norman Crill, and Angie Forrest, to name just a very few.

Their stories give us the origin of Hunter Farm, Stewart Avenue, named for Angie's family, the hospitals, school, farms, mines, almost every aspect of the Grove City area as we know it now.

The historical society has been given permission by *Legacy's* copyright holder, Community Newspaper Holdings Inc., owner of Allied News, to republish *Legacy*. That will enable the society to bring to the public a very vital historical record, including the words and viewpoints of those many stalwart individuals who built our community and all it represents. This is important because there are no existing copies of *Legacy* for the public to buy. *Legacy I* went to two printings and both it and *Legacy II* sold out years ago.

The new edition will combine both volumes in a reasonably priced paperback with original illustrations. The final product will be of the quality we have come to expect with Curt Hazlett doing the layout as he did for the society's prior books, *The Way We Were* and *Grandma Left the Light On*.

*Wolf Creek Legacy's* significance and contribution to the area's written history is considerable, the scope of which may not be realized until even further into our future. It is hoped that Grove City Area Historical Society's members will be supportive of this valuable project.

By: Lillian Reeher

### *Wolf creek legacy: Books one and two*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be a Patron: \_\_\_\_\_ \$400 donation for 4 books  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$300 donation for 3 books  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 donation for 2 books  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 donation for 1 book

I would like to make a \$100 memorial donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Please make checks payable to: Grove City Area Historical Society.**  
**Forms can be mailed to headquarters at: Grove Area City Historical Society,**  
**PO Box 764, Grove City, PA 16127**

## VOLUNTEER NEWS



Heidi Adams

The Grove City Area Historical Society Volunteer Orientation will be held on April 13th, from 11am to 1pm at the Historical Society building. This meeting will cover the basics of volunteering at the Historical Society including greeting and assisting visitors, handling Museum Gift Shoppe sales and accepting donated items. It's also a great way for new and returning volunteers to get to know each other and enjoy some refreshments. If you know of someone who has an interest in history or is looking for a volunteer opportunity, please invite him or her along to the Orientation.

The Historical Society is a community resource for information and learning, and our volunteers are one of its most important assets. Whether a lifelong resident, returning resident or recent transplant, we all have a common interest in preserving and sharing the history and events that have shaped Grove City. By volunteering, we help make that information more accessible to everyone.

We have added four new volunteers to our ranks this year: Sue Ellen Hamilton, Pep Bernardi, Roberta Cooke and Cathy Coulter. Cathy will also be assisting Jane Cleary and Don Cook with genealogy requests and Pep will fill book orders placed on our website. Ladies, we are happy to welcome you. We hope that this will be a rewarding experience for you, as well.

We are looking forward to another great year at the Historical Society. In the basement, Tom Armour is setting up an Aluminum Room complete with a working shop to be used to demonstrate the craft. Our new Medical Room will be open this year, displaying items from the history of past hospitals and local medical workers. As always, new exhibits create a need for help in maintaining them. We are in need of someone to oversee the Veterans Room and the Medical Room. There are also a few volunteer shifts to be filled; most are fifth Tuesdays-Saturdays of the month. A calendar with open shifts will be posted at the orientation and we would appreciate it if you would consider picking up a day or two. We would also like to update the Volunteer Contact list. Please look over this list during the orientation and verify that we have your correct name spelling, phone number, cell phone number, email address.

Thanks for making my first year coordinating the volunteer schedule such an easy one. Everyone has been so gracious about agreeing to continue volunteering and cooperating with a few changes to the current schedule. Remember, as a volunteer, your gifts to the Historical Society of your time, energy, and skills are deeply appreciated. See you on April 13th!

### HAVE YOU "LIKED" US ON FACEBOOK YET?

Our Facebook page has been receiving a lot of traffic since it was launched last fall. Visitors have been using online social media to stop in and chat about their memories of the Grove City Area.

***Check out a recent Facebook interaction on page 8.***

If you have a Facebook profile, stop by for a visit and join in the discussions...

<https://www.facebook.com/GroveCityAreaHistoricalSociety>





*Outgoing president Skip Sample passes the key to the Historical Society post office mailbox to incoming president Linda Bennett. They are wearing the new sweatshirts from the Museum Shoppe.*

## MUSEUM SHOPPE NEWS

The newest items for purchase at the Historical Society's Museum Shoppe are gray sweatshirts with the Society's green logo. We've had white sweatshirts and tee shirts in children to adult sizes. Our gray sweatshirts sell for \$16 and come in medium, large and x-large adult sizes.

The Shoppe offers a variety of crockery, magnets, note cards with local scenes by local artists and books by local authors. With Mothers' and Fathers' days coming up, they would make very nice presents.

Please check us out on the Society's website or come in and shop when we open in April. There is something for everyone!

By Linda Beatty

## NEW DISPLAY ROOM

There is a new display moving into Room 313. Materials donated through the years from the G.C. Medical Center, Dr. Betty Jo White, the Bashline family, Dr. William Menzies and others will showcase the history of medical care in Grove City.



Bruce Bennett and Gary Forsythe hang shelves in the new Medical Room

## Become a member of the Grove City Area Historical Society!

*Take advantage of all of the great perks of being a member, use the form on the back cover to sign up today! (All membership contributions are tax deductible!)*

## HELP WANTED!

**One or two people to organize and arrange items from Grove City's businesses of years gone by.**

**Call 724-967-1384 to find out more about it.**



## 130 YEARS AGO

*This information was obtained from Ralph Packard's Grove City History "Annotated Timeline" on our website [www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org)*

**January 24, 1883** Pine Grove was incorporated as the Borough of Grove City.

At the suggestion of J. T. Blair, General Manager of the Pittsburgh, Shenango & Lake Erie Railroad, the citizens voted to change the name of Pine Grove to Grove City to enable the post office and borough to have the same name. Another Pinegrove (now called Pine Grove), located in the southwest corner of Schuylkill County, had been incorporated in 1832. A petition of 91 Pine Grove citizens was presented to Mercer County Court in October 1882. On January 4, 1883, the court declared the area to be incorporated as Grove City. The population was estimated at 800.

**In February the first election was held and Bascom Rayen Welch was elected the first burgess of Grove City.**

The first council members were: R. S. Coulter, C. L. Fithian, J. W. McMillin, D. W. Morrow, A. B. McKay, and R. C. Craig, Secretary of Council.

**On February 26, the first council meeting was held on in the Morrow carriage shop.**

**On March 3, a seal with a pine tree in the center was approved during the second council meeting.**

**On March 23, council levied a six-mill tax and directed the installation of wooden sidewalks along properties in the borough.**

Note: These sidewalks were the object of college student mischief. As a practical joke, they would "roll up" the sidewalks. It is reported that on at least one occasion they were caught in the act by the college President Isaac Ketler, who supervised their relaying of the sidewalks.

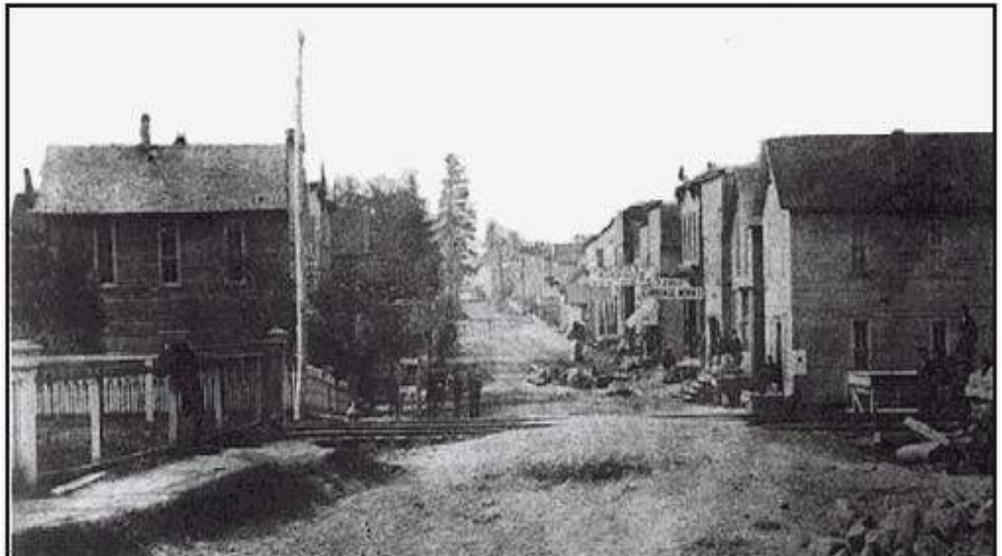
**In 1883, William H. Egle in his The History of Pennsylvania still referred to Grove City as Pinegrove:**

Starting from Shenango, on the line of the Shenango and Allegheny Road, eight miles hence, we have first the village of Fredonia, now seeking incorporation; then five miles further on, Oakland, near Mercer; then, five more miles, Pardoe's station, a mining town; then four miles and we reach Pinegrove - all thriving and prosperous villages.

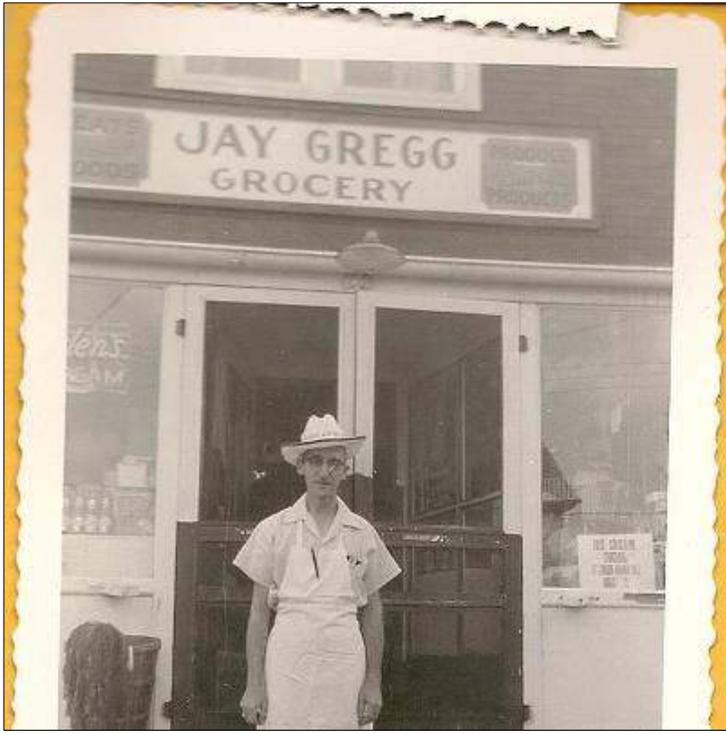
**In 1883 Broad Street was an unpaved street.**

*This photograph shows Broad Street in 1883 looking south from the railroad tracks.*

*The Black Feed Store was the first building on the right. A sign is in front of A. B. McKay Carriage Works. Next was Livino Brothers & Co. clothing store. Their sign states "One Price Clothiers". Beyond that was the planing mill (about 151-153 South Broad Street). Beyond that was the Filer House. The first building on the left is the McNeish Building, which was razed in 1928 and replaced with a brick building. Beyond that was Fithian's Drug Store.*



## AN EXCERPT FROM THE GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FACEBOOK PAGE



### Do You Remember When every neighborhood in Grove City used to have a little store?

**Linda** Someone brought this photo into the Historical Society. I have fond memories of Jay Gregg's store and his family who lived above the store.

**Stacy** Very cool. Where was this store?

**Grove City Area Historical Society** It was (the building is still there) located at the corner of Stewart Ave. and Barmore Ave.

**Todd** That's not far from my place

**Inez** I worked in that building when it was Ruth Butler's Beauty Shop

**Rolf** Went there quite often as a kid for candy. Worked there later when Young and Associates was there.

**Pamela** Stopped there all the time on my way home from school!

**Patricia** I lived 2 houses up from there beside Henry and Myra Siegel until 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Trisha** Ahhhh, Patricia...Myra Siegel, what a dear, sweet women...did her hair for years...I think they owned or worked at "Brown's Boot Shop!"

**Lenny** We used to walk down there from our house on Poplar and spend our nickles and dimes on candy.

**Evelyn** My Uncle, H Jay Gregg,[father's brother] worked /owned grocery stores in GC until he went on to become a borough manager in Maine and then eastern PA.

**Bob** My Great Uncle Jay Cool!

**Marsha** we loved going there...it was only a block away from home!

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item	2013 Budget	Income as of 01/31/2013
Donations	\$5,000.00	\$ 97.00
Memorials	500.00	2,895.00
Membership Dues	5,000.00	540.00
Interest	4.00	.16
Book Sales (WWW)	300.00	301.79
Book Sales (GLTLO)	1,000.00	275.00
Other Sales	100.00	60.00
Other Sales	100.00	1.00
Internet Sales	300.00	150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,304.00</b>	<b>\$4,319.95</b>

Facility:

**Expenses**

Building. Repair & Maintenance.	\$1,000.00	\$ 78.85
Utilities	5,000.00	252.80

Operations:

Office Supplies	400.00	140.81
Postage / Bulk Mail	800.00	238.00
Museum / Displays	250.00	455.00
Misc.	600.00	3.16

Services:

Website	400.00	50.00
Publications	2,500.00	110.00

Events:

Chamber Dinner		90.00
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,950.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,415.46</b>
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# Grove City Area Historical Society

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

NON-PROFIT  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GROVE CITY, PA.  
PERMIT NO. 764



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

**Website:** [www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/#!/GroveCityHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/#!/GroveCityHistoricalSociety)  
**Email:** [gcahs@zoominternet.net](mailto: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