



111 College Ave. Grove City Pa 16127

# The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org 724-458-1798 gcahs@zoominternet.net

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August 2015

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## A Message from the President

Many of you already know Bruce and I have made the decision to sell our house and move to Florida on Aug.12th. Both of our daughters and son in laws have established their work and home in Florida. We firmly believe that it is important for us to live near our children and grandchildren. This family photograph was taken the last time we were all together in February.

With that said, I am happy that Kathy Jack, a new Board member, has agreed to serve in the interim as president. I am sure our longtime members and volunteers will continue to give her the kind support that was given to me.

I also want to say a big thanks to Cathy Coulter for volunteering to take over this newsletter as she has stepped in with the greatest of ease. She and Jane Cleary also have done a great job of obtaining and training our very helpful summer teen volunteers. Some have even written articles in this newsletter.

Bruce and I have lived and worked in Grove City all of our lives and will certainly miss every aspect of the community. Thankfully, we have the benefits of social media, cell phones, facebook, and email to keep in touch and informed about what is happening in our beloved home town, Grove City. We sincerely hope to hear from you and look forward to reading the Historical Society newsletter!

## Corporate Members

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We are sending our best wishes with Linda and Bruce  
as they make their move to their new home in  
Florida.



We shall miss you both and all you have done  
here at the Historical Society.





### **This year the United States Army has marked its 250th Birthday.**

The U.S. Army began in 1775 during the American Revolution and by June 14<sup>th</sup> of that year, the Continental Army was officially formed. With its formation the United States Army was born.

The proud history of the United States Army is today a part of the Grove City Area Historical Society's museum. We have a room dedicated to preserving the military history of the Grove City area residents.

The Veterans Room has memorabilia going back to the Civil War. The items have been donated by Grove City veterans and their families. We have a nice range of uniforms, medals, and photographs. We also have newspaper clippings that have been framed. One of our founding fathers, Ranel Craig, kept a diary during the Civil War that is among our collection. You will also find a large collection of military uniforms in our Men's Clothing Room.

Visit us and see the many items we have on display that honor the Grove City military heritage as the Army marks its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.



This postcard is showing a YMCA education class. It was sent to Amanda Platt of Grove City Pa. from a Robt. Le Palm in Camp Greenleaf Chickamauga Park, Ga. June 2, 1918. He tells of his arrival in camp. It is located in our Veterans Room.

### **GROVE CITY DAIRY DISPLAY**

By Laurie McCandless

Back at the turn of the century (not this one, but the last one), the dairy business was beginning to thrive in the Grove City area. Many local farms raised milk cows, and the farmers often sold their surplus milk to neighbors. Soon, some were bottling their milk and selling it in small stores on their farms.

The Grove City Creamery began operation in 1915 through Experimental Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The creamery purchased milk from local farmers, sold its dairy products in local stores, and had a walk-in store which stocked butter, different types of cheese, milk, cream, and buttermilk. Later, condensed milk and ice cream were added. Farmers first delivered their milk in milk cans by horse and wagon, and later by Model - T trucks. The experimental functions of the Creamery made great strides in helping farmers improve their herds.

The Historical Society is fortunate to have a history of Grove City's dairies, compiled originally by the late Howard "Dutch" McIntire and later updated by Chester Coulter. Additional information was gathered by Lillian Reynolds Reeher. In addition to the Creamery, we numbered over 20 dairies in the area throughout the years.

This rich history is the focus of a new display at the Historical Society. From our archives, we have pulled out many glass milk bottles, cardboard cartons, milk cans, milk crates, advertising items, and even a metal milk box (used on the porch for home delivery). Stop in to see the display, read the updated histories, and see if you can find the dairy your family used growing up!



### "Houses of Grove City" By Alex Magee

Charles Bestwick gave an encore presentation on the "Houses of Grove City" at the Historical Society on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2015. Over two dozen people were in attendance to watch his presentation in the John Sample Aluminum Room. Charles opened his talk by answering pre-submitted questions about specific houses. He continued his presentation the discussing the builders, houses and the history behind them.

When the presentation was over the audience enjoyed snacks and each other's company. Charles answered more questions about the houses he had shown.

This house was a part of the West End development on W. A. Stewart's property. It is located on Stewart Ave.



### Airport Open House By Shannan Coulter

On June 13<sup>th</sup> the Grove City Airport hosted an Airport Awareness Day Open House. The event was being sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). There were many vendors including the Grove City Area Historical Society and the Grove City Medical Center. Some of the other things that could be found there that day were face painting, a raffle, a nail wrap and polish station and pedal planes for the children. Lunch was also made available.

Due to weather conditions the skydiving show that had been planned had to be canceled though we were able to witness a drone demonstration. The Medevac Helicopter was there and had been made available for visitors to climb into and to look at.

Linda Beatty, Mary Ann Mc Clinton, and Shannan Coulter had set up a table for the Historical Society at the event. The Table was beautifully displayed with several books including *They Flew Proud* and *My Family Tree Research*. They also had crockery, notecards, and magnets on display. These items were made available for purchase. They had a nice day and enjoyed the event and meeting the visitors that stopped by the table.

### Genealogy 101 Immigration Records Presentation

Despite the hardships and potential dangers, our ancestors emigrated so they could create a better life for themselves and their families. In doing so they left behind records and information on where they came from and how they got here.

On the evening of June 22<sup>nd</sup> 40 people attended a second presentation co-sponsored by the Grove City Community Library and presented by Cathy Coulter. This presentation was on researching immigration records.

She talked about how to find immigration records through documents such as: naturalization, census records, passenger lists, and passport applications. Cathy also talked about ports of arrival and departure with a question and answer session after the presentation.



If you are interested in working on your family tree and have a question or would like help with finding information on an ancestor you can contact Jane Cleary and Cathy Coulter at the Historical Society. They are there every second and fourth Tuesday. The Historical Society is open noon to 3pm from April until the Historical Society closes in December.

The Historical Society phone number is 724-458-1798 and the email is [gcahs@zoominternet.net](mailto:gcahs@zoominternet.net).  
You also can send an email to Jane Cleary at [cleary2@zoominternet.net](mailto:cleary2@zoominternet.net)  
or Cathy Coulter at [cathycoulter1@yahoo.com](mailto:cathycoulter1@yahoo.com)

### A Visit from Kosova

The Rotary Cultural Exchange of our District 7280 is having a friendship exchange with other Rotarians from Kosova this year. Six Rotarians from Kosova took time to visit the Grove City Area Historical Society on June 17<sup>th</sup> to tour the museum with Linda Beatty and Jane Cleary. They were quite impressed with our museum and especially excited to see our Wendell August collection, claiming to “have seen that type of thing” before.

**In the photo on the right going from left to right:**

Fatos Axhemi, Albina Axhemi, Rrezarta Nallbani-Batalli, Butrint Batalli, Skip Simple, Artan Bakija, Ylber Muhaxhiri



### Letter received from a former GC College student who interned at the GCAHS

Dear Volunteers of the Grove City Area Historical Society:

I am very grateful for the copy of *Wolf Creek Legacy* which you sent me, though I returned to school almost as soon as I received it and subsequently lost your contact information. I would like to thank you all for assisting me in my professional development, and update you on where I currently am in it.

I recently graduated from the Cooperstown Graduate Program. There, I learned about caring for collections, project management, grant writing, fundraising, forming budgets, and oral history research, among many other topics. At the moment, I have an apprenticeship with The Country Homestead in Kramer, Pennsylvania. This will teach me historic carpentry methods, which should inform my capacity to create reproductions. The apprenticeship will last for ten weeks from June until August.

So for now, I will develop my professional skills as an apprentice and continue to look for jobs. I would like to work with collections, especially as they relate to ethnic or cultural heritage. I have two goals with this: making collections more relevant, and making them more relatable while maintaining preservation. Ideally, collections can make visitors think critically about the past and how it may be relevant today. To increase accessibility to collections while still preserving them, I hope to either have reproductions available for public use, or to institute programming that encourages visitors to create objects of their own based on what they see in the museum. I will continue to look for jobs that will help me achieve these goals.

I hope that everything goes well at the historical society. I am sure that *Wolf Creek Legacy* will prove to be a valuable resource for public researchers.

Best, *Rick Kriebel*

### Up Coming Events

**West Pa Authors Book Festival:** This event is being held July 25, 2015. 10 am - 4 pm on the square in Mercer Pa. The rain date is scheduled to be held on August 1, 2015. The Historical Society will be having a table set up for this event. Please stop by and say hello and see what we will have available.

**Old Fashioned Pot Luck Picnic:** The picnic will be Monday August 10, 2015 6:00 pm at the Memorial Park in the Keystone Pavilion. Bring a dish to share and table service. Drinks will be provided. As our President Linda Bennett and her husband Bruce are moving to Florida, please plan to attend the picnic to say good-bye.

**Topics for the fall seminar series:** The Fall Seminar series is now being considered. If you have an idea for a presentation, please contact us.

### Meet Our High School Volunteers

**Shannan Coulter** plans on attending college for a degree in Accounting and a minor in English.

**Erica Cannane** plans on attending college for a degree in History. She wants to be a curator.

**Ashley Trouterman** plans on attending college for a surgical medical degree.

**Maddie Magee** is still planning her future and is considering music, science/computers, and/or writing.

**Alexandra Magee** plans on attending college for Creative Writing.

**Ruiting Feng** plans on attending college for a degree in Science and a minor in English.

**Annie Wagner** plans on attending college for a degree in Creative Writing.

**Maddie Jack** plans on attending college for a degree in Special Education.

### Interesting Accessions in 2015

by Laurie McCandless

The Accessions Committee of the Grove City Area Historical Society thought you might like to know what types of items come through our doors for display. Below is a sampling of items we noted of particular interest so far this year:

**2015.004** – A slate and slate pencil from the Smith One-Room School in Liberty Township. These items were originally owned by Mary Hazlett, a teacher at Smith School.

**2015.005** – A 1917 pocket watch which originally belonged to William J. Hazlett.

**2015.013** – The Rose Family History with a section detailing the family's connection to President William McKinley.

**2015.017** – Two American flags which belonged to Raymond Stewart. One is a 48-star flag proudly flown on Mr. Stewart's porch for several years, and the other is the first flag to fly at the new Honor Roll at Grove City Memorial Park, April 1996 – April 1997.

**2015.018** – A nail apron and a 1930 wallpaper sample book, both from the former Wilson Lumber Company of Grove City.

**2015.031** – World War II Navy uniforms worn by Claude Grossman during his service from March 25, 1941 – December 7, 1946. The donation also included pictures of Mr. Grossman in uniform and newspaper clippings from this period.

**2015.039** – A new Dyson vacuum sweeper. Not all items donated are of historical interest but are very much appreciated and needed in order to maintain our building!

**2015.041** – Full size blue prints for the former Grove City Hotel (now known as the Penn Grove Hotel), which opened on April 4, 1924.

**2015.044** – History of the George Junior Republic in Pennsylvania, written by Allene Hoffman Masterson.

Once received, all donations are documented in a computer database called Past Perfect. A photograph of each item is attached to the record, a thank you letter is generated, and the item is placed in the appropriate room for display. We are currently backlogged in processing accessions and welcome new volunteers to our committee.

We also want to express our thanks to the donors who have entrusted us to preserve the history, heritage, and artifacts of the Grove City area.

Grove City Area Historical Society  
Newsletter  
111 College Ave  
P.O. Box 764  
Grove City, Pa. 16127

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Museum and Gift Shoppe Hours  
Tuesday – Saturday 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
724-458-1798

**Website:**

Website:  
[www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org)  
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  
Make Checks Payable To: Grove City Area Historical Society

Founding and Life Memberships are payable over 3 years.

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

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!

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**YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENSURES OUR SUCCESS**

