

111 College Ave. Grove City Pa 16127

# The Grove City Area Historical Society Newsletter

[www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org) 724-458-1798 [gcahs@zoominternet.net](mailto:gcahs@zoominternet.net)

Volume 3

November 2017

## Board of Directors

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Grove City Borough

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Lillian Reeher  
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Marty St. John  
Grove City Borough

## Looking Back at 2017

As 2017 is quickly coming to an end, I am pleased to share with you a sampling of the recent accomplishments of our dedicated volunteers. Thanks to all who gave of their time and talents as we continue to make improvements to our already impressive Historical Society.

Regardless of all the rain we endured early in the summer, the evening of our Old Presbyterian Cemetery walk on July 17<sup>th</sup> was beautiful. Skip Sample led a sizable group on a travel back in time through personal interest stories of many of Grove City's early residents. Several attendees requested that we continue the cemetery walk program. So, next summer we plan to do that by highlighting another of Grove City's historic cemeteries.

The weather also cooperated for our annual picnic in the park. A record turn-out of members shared delicious homemade dishes and enjoyed entertainment by four Olde Town Harmony vocalists.

The Historical Society welcomed two Grove City High School reunion groups this past summer. The Class of 1967 alumni held a wine and cheese reception with nearly 75 in attendance, and many of the Class of 1972 alumni visited and toured our facility. In addition, the YMCA day camp children and a local Red Hat Society also visited. Please pass the word that we welcome groups to tour and hold events in the building. It is a great opportunity for recruiting new members and showcasing our Historical Society.

Congratulations to Board members and authors Lillian Reynolds Reeher and Cathy Coulter who recently published books. Lillian's book Her Name Was Mary Wick and Cathy's book As They Marched Through Time can be purchased in our Museum Shop.

I am grateful to report that many of our members have responded to our request for support of our "Preserve Our History" fundraiser. We have not yet reached our Phase I goal of \$5,000, but have received enough donations to begin the process of securing appropriate materials for the Giesmann Photograph Collection and preparing the basement area for the antique mail wagon. Thank you to all who made a contribution. If you haven't yet contributed, please consider a donation to this important fundraiser. All gifts to the Historical Society are tax deductible.

We will, once again, end the year with our Holiday open house on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2 p.m. Please plan to join us in celebrating our achievements.

Kathy Jack



## World War 1 History Comes Alive

Grove City College and the Grove City Area Historical Society cordially invite you to visit the Pew Fine Arts Center World War 1 Exhibit. The exhibit will be open from November 3 through November 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Continued on page 5*



## Recollections

by Skip Sample

“Here at Recollections...The preservation and appreciation of history is one of our main missions. So, we set out to honor the different historical sites you can visit around the United States that give a truly accurate representation of the past.” They then listed the top 30 entities in the United States that they feel represent the history of their area. The GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS LISTED IN THAT GROUP OF 30. We were included for 3 reasons: we have a museum, we have had books written about the area to educate our residents, and finally we give free genealogy assistance to anyone asking for assistance.

Recently I was going to speak to a group about the Historical Society and I wanted to tell them about this “recognition” that we received, but I really did not know anything about the group Recollections or the other 29 entities that were in this group of 30 historical sites. So, Laurie McCandless looked the group up on the web and found the other 29 entities with which we are listed. The places listed are divided into 3 categories: 1. Open -Air Museums, 2. Historical Societies and 3. Plantations. What a pleasant surprise. We were with some pretty impressive historical sites. Among the places listed are: Colonial Williamsburg, Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site, The Henry Ford Museum at Greenfield Village, Plymouth Plantation, Historical Societies of Cleveland, Maine Newport County Charleston, Atlanta, Oklahoma, and Chicago. Among the Plantations were Monticello, Magnolia, Oak Alley, Montpelier Planation plus several others.

I was pleasantly surprised and impressed with this group. So, if you want to brag about our Historical Society I think you have every right to do so.

The web site for Recollections is <http://recollections.biz/blog/the-top-30-historical-preservation-societies-in-the-united-states/> if you would like to read about all of these wonderful places and see what they had to say about us.

## New Research Available for Local Genealogy

By Jane Cleary

Baker, Beach, Beatty, Brown, Bowdin, Coast, Coulter, Craft, Eakin, Ghost, Gilmore, Grossman, Hovis, Huffman, Irwin, Ketler, Major, Martin, Mayes, McClung, McFadden, McFeaters, Meals, Morris, Phipps, Porter, Riddle, Short, Simcox, Surrena, Van Dyke, Walker, Walters, or Williams? Are any of these surnames in your family tree? If so, you might be interested in one of our newest acquisitions. We now own the detailed genealogy records, in a searchable CD format, of Jacob Walter, Revolutionary War soldier, who died in Venango County in 1823. Many of his descendants settled in Mercer County and the names above are only a few of the lives documented in more than 1200 pages of meticulous research.



Phillis Iland Walter, who lived in Grove City until her death in 1995, compiled this research. Based on the accuracy and thoroughness of her work, Iland and many others were able to become members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The printed information is contained in 18 volumes, and was securely kept, after her death, by her cousins Paul and Lois Gilmore of Grove City. Edwin Walters, GC native currently living in New Jersey, a descendent of Jacob Walter, learned about these volumes while researching in Washington, D.C.

He contacted the Grove City Historical Society (GCHS) in 2013 and was very instrumental in bringing to light this history, and making it accessible. After meeting with the Gilmores and reviewing the work, Ed contacted the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society (WPGS) about this valuable documentation and they recently copied all the pages onto four rolls of microfilm. Copies of the microfilm are available at the Franklin Public Library, the Mercer County Historical Society, and the WPGS, located at the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh.

The WPGS also had the rolls of microfilm copied onto a CD, which is searchable by surname. The GCAHS has this CD available for visitors to use. Copies of the CD are also available for purchase for \$10, plus shipping. They can be bought in house or online through our website, <http://www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org/>.

We are grateful to Paul and Lois Gilmore, Ed Walter, Nancy Romig at the WPGS, and most of all Iland Walter for making this invaluable resource available to generations now and for years to come.



**105 YEARS AGO**

By Laurie McCandless

John Alvin "J.A." Reigelman was my great grandfather. Although he died before I was born, I have heard wonderful stories about him during my lifetime. Alvin was born in Hadley on March 23, 1879. He met Bertha Perrine, Wolf Creek Township, Grove City, while they were both employed at Polk Center, he as a laundry worker and she as a nurse. They were married on December 18, 1901. They lived in the Polk-Hendersonville area for a while, and then moved to Grove City. Alvin and Bertha rented an apartment at the corner of Pine and Center streets, a house that later became part of the Bashline-Rossman Hospital. While living in Grove City, J.A. was employed as a machinist at the Bessemer, and Bertha worked at the Odd Fellows Home.

J.A. was a very talented man, building and playing mandolins, as well as building radios. He had beautiful penmanship and was very detail-oriented. It comes as no surprise that he would attempt to build an airplane.

The Blériot XI was a French aircraft, built by Louis Blériot who used it to make the first flight across the English Channel on July 25, 1909. It was a wooden aircraft with either one or two seats.

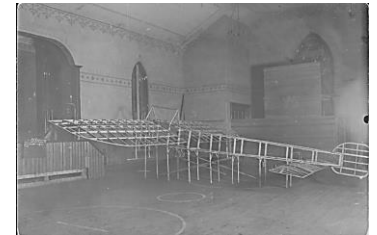
*Blériot's Plane***Grove City***[Special Telegram to The Dispatch.]*

GROVE CITY, Pa., Nov. 11—This town is in no way behind when it comes to flying machines, as J. A. Reigelman of Center Street is building a machine of the Blériot model, and although it will not be completed until some time next summer, it is a fine piece of work so far, and Mr. Reigelman will install his own motor. The Blériot is one of the very best machines, and this is a correct duplicate of the original, and is not an experiment, but a machine that has already gained fame in the aero field. There is some talk of extending Mr. Reigelman a benefit for his efforts.

*The above article appeared in the Grove City paper in 1912.*

My great grandfather worked with C.J. Robinson in Grove City (near where Five Filer Brothers had their business) to build the plane's framework. J.A. was a member of Grace M.E. Church and used the old church at the corner of Grace and Pine Streets to ensure the pieces fit together properly.

Unfortunately, J.A. never finished his plane but sold it to a man from Cleveland. My grandmother always said it later saw action in World War I, where Blériots were used as spy planes.

*C. J. Robinson Wood Working Shop**Plane inside Grace. M. E. Church***THE PARK VIEW RESTAURANT – Part 2**

By Laurie McCandless

Last issue, we highlighted the beginnings of the Park View Restaurant. We continue the history this issue. But first, clarification is needed on those who worked with Norman Humphrey. His wife's sister Jessie (not his aunt) baked, and his wife (not his mother) cooked.

*Bertie and Vern*

Although records of all the owners of the Park View Restaurant are not known, we do know Bob and Jean Nye purchased the business in the 1950s and ran it for five years. They lived in Hermitage and drove back and forth to Grove City each day. Their daughter Roberta "Bertie" Nye worked curb service on weekends (but no roller skates for their servers!). Bob and Jean did just about everything: cooked, waited tables, washed dishes, etc. When they got busy, about all Bob could do (according to Jean) was peel potatoes whether they needed them or not.

Vern Emhoff worked for Meadow Gold Dairy at the time, and he delivered dairy products to the restaurant. It was here that Bertie and Vern met, and they married in November 1955. Vern often teased Jean with a particular restaurant story: Jean was in a hurry one day washing dishes, and for whatever reason, she threw the dishpan of dirty water out the back door rather than pour it down the drain. Apparently, a few pieces of silverware were still in the dishpan, so they went flying along with the dishwater and landed in the back yard. The next day, Doc Humphrey (Norman's brother Floyd who ran the gas station next door) and Duff Lewis (who owned the dry cleaners on the other side of the restaurant) came in for lunch. They handed Jean a few pieces of silverware they claimed to have found in the back yard. This continued a couple times a week for several months. Jean knew they were teasing her; they had pocketed silverware during their last visit and returned it a few days later, pretending to have found it outside!

*Continued page 4*

## The Ketler Collection

By Laurie McCandless

This collection includes books, photographs, paintings, photo albums, and correspondence which spans more than 120 years, from 1839 to the 1960s. Much of the correspondence is the personal and family letters of two principal families, the Ketlers and the Gilsons. Of the Ketlers, the two chief creators and accumulators were Isaac Ketler and his son Weir Ketler. A principal subject of their letters is the creation and operation of Grove City College. Isaac Ketler married Matilda Gilson, incorporating the Gilson family letters into the collection. The project involves processing, digitizing, and cataloging the correspondence and has been ongoing for several years. A team of Grove City College students volunteers their time to work with the collection.

*The Following is a Letter from Zachary Grunder explaining his previous role as the Grove City College student project leader of the Ketler Digitization project. Zachary graduated from the college in May 2017 leaving his position on the Ketler Digitization project open for another student to continue his work on the collection.*

Dear Ms. Coulter,

During this past 2016-2017 academic year I had the privilege, in conjunction with Grove City College and the Grove City Area Historical Society, to take part in an internship and volunteer as the student archival project leader in charge of digitizing documents from the Ketler collection at the Historical Society. As the student leader, I had a wide range of responsibilities some of which included, organizing and categorizing the remaining documents of the Ketler collection, putting them in chronological order by date within their respective folders and boxes. Another duty was to schedule college student volunteers' times to work and assign them their own folders to scan and enter information into Past Perfect. One of my biggest responsibilities this year was training another college student to take my place as the project leader since I graduated this past May. Next year, Jenna Hershberger, whom I have trained as my replacement, will have the job of preserving and digitizing the many paintings and photographs that are near the end of the Ketler collection. She will also be scheduling times for students to volunteer, and train a replacement to take over after she graduates. This past year I was able to organize 10 different boxes along with all of their contents. I also regularly checked on progress in Past Perfect, created finding aids for finished boxes, and made sure that all documents were ready to be scanned. While there is still currently half of the Ketler collection that needs to be done, the students of Grove City College have done a wonderful job scanning and digitizing the documents to preserve such an important part of the college's history and it was my honor and privilege to be part of it.

Sincerely,

Zachary Grunder

*The Historical Society would like to take this time to thank Zachary Grunder for all of the work he did on the*

### Continued: The Park View Restaurant by Laurie McCandless Part 2:

Vern's brother Sid was a regular at the restaurant, and he would often help out when things got busy. He recalls some crazy times with the young adults who came in, but even though Bob was a small man, he kept order just by saying "That's enough!" Everyone knew he meant business and it was time to settle down.

The 1949 Polk Directory lists Raymond Webster as the owner. Harry and Evelyn Lightner are listed as owners of the "New Park View Restaurant" from 1959 - 1964. Philip Stemmerich and James Morrison are shown as co-owners of the "Parkview Inn" from 1965 - 1969.

Note: Bertie (Nye) and Vern Emhoff were the parents of member Laurie McCandless, and Bob and Jean Nye were her grandparents.

*If anyone has information about any of the other owners or has stories about the Park View Restaurant, we'd like to hear them. You may visit us on Facebook or contact us at the Historical Society.*



Bob and Jean Nye

## World War 1 History Comes Alive

By Cathy Coulter

Can you imagine what life was like in 1918? Your loved ones were fighting over in France, facing hardships and food shortages. Here at home food was being rationed and sent over to feed the soldiers overseas. The lovely recipes you were used to making now were not possible. For several days a week, your dinner likely did not contain meat or anything made from wheat. A new way of cooking and eating became the new norm for many families, even those living here in Grove City. A new government agency was put in charge of inventing new recipes, reinventing others and managing it all. It was called the U.S. Food Administration. This new agency also had been able to convince millions of families to sign a pledge to conserve food during the war.

Some of the foods that was affected by the rationing were beef, pork, dairy products, and sugar. Wheat was also hard to come by during the war. These rationed foods were being sent to our soldiers overseas so substitute ingredients and alternative recipes were needed by those here at home. The availability of flour was affected so much that potatoes were turned into potato flour. Potatoes, whether in the form of flour or not, became a very important ingredient in many recipes. Corn, oats, bran and rye were also used more. Honey, molasses, and maple sugar were used to replace cane sugar in the recipes. Beef and pork were replaced with fish and poultry. The animal fats that were used in cooking gave way to the use of vegetable oil in many kitchens at this time.

Posters and billboards in some towns and cities encouraged families to be mindful of how they ate and encouraged having meals without meat or flour such as Meatless Tuesdays and Thursdays and Wheatless Mondays.

The women were able to find alternative recipes from women's magazines, pamphlets, newspapers, and cookbooks. Some were able to create a few new recipes of their own with recipes shared with friends and families. Though times were hard for our ancestors they endured and welcomed the end of the war and their loved one's return home. Life I am sure repositioned itself back into a normal rhythm after the war. Some of the recipes and cooking practices continued to be used even after the war was long over.

*Is there a war recipe hidden in between the pages of an old family cook book? Take a look. You just may be surprised to find one or two of them. Whether it's from World War I or World War II, if you find one, why not dust it off and try it out. You may find a new favorite dish.*

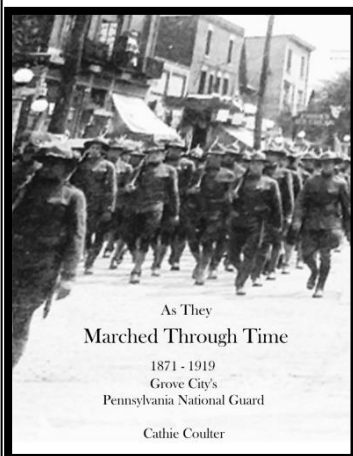
*If you have family stories that were handed down to you about what life was like here at home During World War I, feel free to send them in to me and I will try to put some in the next newsletter. Help us to preserve the life and times of Grove City residents during World War I.*

## A New Book Has Arrived at the Historical Society: As They Marched Through Time

By Cathie Coulter

Follow three National Guard companies from the creation of the North Liberty Guards all the way through the First World War with Company M. While serving their state and country, these fine men participated in various events, controlled riots, and learned the ways of war. The courageous men who honored and served in these companies made sacrifices and some even lost their lives while serving their country.

Join the North Liberty Guard, Company F, and Company M as they marched through time protecting and defending their country



Company M 112<sup>th</sup> Regiment 28<sup>th</sup> Division

***This book is available at the Historical Society for only \$35.00!***

**GROVE CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

**To Serve 3-Year Terms January 1, 2018 – January 1, 2021**

PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE CANDIDATES BY YOUR VOTE.

\_\_\_\_\_ Kathy Jack, Grove City Borough

\_\_\_\_\_ Lillian Reeher, Pine Township

\_\_\_\_\_ Todd Burns, Member at Large

\_\_\_\_\_ Terry Reeher, Member at Large

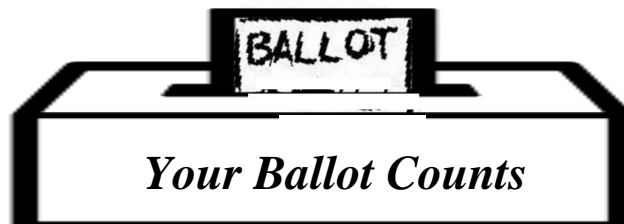
\_\_\_\_\_ Other Nomination (prior consent should be obtained)

**PLEASE RETURN THE BALLOT BY JANUARY 11, 2018**

- By mail to Grove City Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 764, Grove City, PA 16127;
- Deliver in person to the Historical Society and place in the designated bag in the library;
- Or by e-mail to [gcahs@zoominternet.net](mailto:gcahs@zoominternet.net).

Board of Directors

Name	Representing	Began	Currently Serving	Term Should Expire with Election in:
Cathy Coulter	Member at Large	2016	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	January 2019
Marty St. John	Grove City Boro	2016	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	January 2019
Jean Waugaman	Grove City Boro	2016	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	January 2019
Linda Beatty	Liberty Township	2010	3 <sup>rd</sup> Term	January 2019
Laurie McCandless	Wolf Creek Twp.	2013	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	January 2019
John Horne	Member at Large	2017	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	January 2020
Rev. Robert McCreight	Member at Large	2017	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	January 2020
Harold McCracken	Member at Large	Nov. 2015 – replaced Heidi Adams mid-term	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	January 2020
Mary Ann Collins	Springfield Twp.	Sept. 2016 – replaced Wendy Ewen mid-term	1 <sup>st</sup> Term	January 2020
Nominated Slate of Candidates				
Kathy Jack	Grove City Boro	2015	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	January 2021
Lillian Reeher	Pine Township	Sept. 2015 – replaced Linda Bennett mid-term	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	January 2021
Todd Burns	Member at Large		1 <sup>st</sup> Term	January 2021
Terry Reeher	Member at Large		1 <sup>st</sup> Term	January 2021



Dear Historical Society Member,

The historical articles displayed and stored at the Historical Society are very important to us and, in many cases, irreplaceable. Preservation of these artifacts and the maintenance of our Historical Society building can often times become costly. Since our financial income is generated solely from membership dues and donations, we do not have the necessary funds available to complete two projects that require our attention this year. These projects are the restoration and placement of the Grove City antique mail wagon and the preservation of the Giesmann Photograph Collection.

Please help us “preserve our history” by making a donation for these important projects. You can do this by completing the attached form and returning it, along with your gift, to the Grove City Area Historical Society, 111 College Avenue, Grove City, PA 16127.

**“Preserve Our History” Fundraiser**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed my gift of \_\_\_\$5.00 \_\_\_ \$10.00 \_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_\_Other

**Make Checks Payable to: Grove City Area Historical Society**

**Mail to the Grove City Area Historical Society, Box 764, Grove City, PA 16127**

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP ENSURES OUR SUCCESS**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET**

**CITY**

**STATE**

**ZIP**

**PLEASE CIRCLE:**    **new member**        **renewal**        **change of address**

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:** Founding and Life Memberships are payable over 3 years.

**Founding \$1,000.00                      Life \$500.00                      Corporate \$50.00                      Family \$40.00**

**Individual \$20.00                      Student / Senior \$10.00                      Donations: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Yes, I would like to volunteer. Please contact me about what opportunities are available**

**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, Box 764, Grove City, PA 16127**

**Make Checks Payable to: Grove City Area Historical Society**

Grove City Area Historical Society  
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 Grove City, Pa. 16127

NON-PROFIT  
 Bulk Rate  
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 GROVE CITY, PA.  
 PERMIT NO.764

Museum and Gift Shoppe Hours  
 Tuesday – Saturday 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
 Our first day of the year is April 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Our last day for this year is Dec.9<sup>th</sup>  
 724-458-1798

Website:

[www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.grovecityhistoricalsociety.org)

Email: [gcahs@zoominternet.net](mailto:gcahs@zoominternet.net)

### Upcoming Seminars and Events

**November 3-16, 2017** 11 am to 7 pm World War 1 Exhibit at Pew Fine Arts Building Grove City College Campus

**November 11, 2017** Old Town's Home for the Holidays

**December 9, 2017** Noon – 2pm Open House

**December 9, 2017** Closing

**January 11, 2018** Elections Ballot is needed by this date

**April 14, 2018** Volunteer luncheon orientation

**April 17, 2018** Opening Day

### Museum Shop Christmas Gifts

When out shopping for the holidays please keep in mind that our Museum Shop has many items that would make wonderful gifts for your family and friends including gift certificates in any amount. We have a nice variety of books for sale including books on genealogy for adults and children, *Wolf Creek Legacy*, 3 new books: *Her Name Was Mary Wick*, *As They Marched Through Time*, and *The Slate Roof Bible*. Fleece sweatshirts are also available to keep your family and friends warm throughout the upcoming winter.

But we have more than that. We also have magnets, art prints of Grove City scenes, crocks, and note cards designed by local artists - all would make wonderful gifts for the holidays.

Stop in and see what wonders and memories we have in store for your family and your friends. Don't forget to add a few to your own wish list.