

Southwest Pioneer

March 2016

Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

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Mayor Richard 'Ike' Stage swears in new Grove City Historical Commission member Barbara Howison. She also is a member of the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society.

Howison Is Newest Commission Member

Barbara Howison, one of the founding members of the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society, is the newest member of the Grove City Historical Commission.

The Commission is an official part of Grove City government that works with the Society to promote and preserve local history.

"Barb is an outstanding addition to our Historical Commission," according to Mayor Richard "Ike" Stage. "Her experience with the Daughters of the American Revolution and with the Southwest Historical Society will prove to be invaluable. We look forward to her being a part of this important commission."

"I join my fellow commission members in welcoming Barb as a member of our group," said Mike Lilly, commission chairperson. "As a lifelong resident of Grove City, Barb has worked for over 30 years to preserve the history and genealogy in our community. Her knowledge is a precious commodity."

"I grew up in Grove City and graduated from Grove City Jackson High School in 1961," she said.

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Heritage Event Marks Celebration Of Self Government

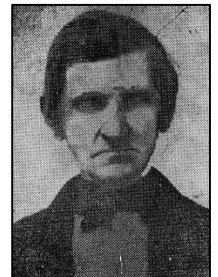
One hundred fifty years ago, residents of Grove City petitioned Franklin County and the State of Ohio for self-government as an incorporated village.

That event will be commemorated at Grove City's Heritage Celebration June 4-5 at Century Village at Fryer Park.

The settlement of Grove City, founded by William Foster Breck, was first platted in 1852 with 19 individual lots.

In 1866, when the village was incorporated, each lot had been reduced in size and the number of lots increased to 78.

In those early years, the entire village was east of Broadway, then known as the Columbus and Harrisburg Turnpike.



W. F. Breck

Breck's first trip into Franklin County was in 1846 while he was a principal business owner in Carroll, Ohio, a settlement in Fairfield County, where he owned a large grain warehouse, a general store and hotel.

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Heritage Event Encourages Crafters; Table Space Available

The Heritage Celebration will be held Saturday, June 4 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 5 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Century Village at Fryer Park.

As in the past, there will be an outdoor worship service Sunday at 10 a.m.

Any Society member interested in having a table at the Heritage Celebration at Century Village to demonstrate heritage crafts should contact Linda Lewis, 614-871-5247.

"Those demonstrating crafts will also be allowed to sell their workmanship," Lewis said.

Attics To Archives Project Continues At Local Library

From Attics to Archives, the joint collection of Southwest Public Libraries (SPL) and the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society, houses documents and images depicting the history of southwest Franklin County.

SPL has more than 6,000 historical items in its collection. Over 200 images are available online now, but staff members continue to add more.

Patrons can browse photographs that show Grove City and the surrounding communities as they were in the 19th and 20th centuries. Patrons also can find links to other online historical collections from other libraries.

The portion of the collection available online is only for photographs at this time but Reference staff members hope to create other specialized collections in the future, featuring graduating class portraits or local school yearbooks.

From Attics to Archives can be viewed online by going to the library's homepage at swpl.org and clicking the "Enter" button under Digital Image Collection.

For more information about the collection, how to donate documents or to purchase high resolution copies of the items in the collection for noncommercial use, contact reference@swpl.org or 614-875-6716, ext. 503.

Society Member Elected City Council President

Roby Schottke, a member of the historical society, was elected president of Grove City's City Council Jan. 4 after Ted Berry, previous council president, stepped down from that responsibility.

Schottke, in an article in *the Grove City Record*, said he would like to schedule topic-specific town-hall forums to give residents a chance to give their input in the operation of government. He retired from South-Western City Schools.

**Have you recruited
a new Society member?**

New Commission Member

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"My first job was at the Grove City Farmer's Exchange where I had the privilege to work with Walter Kuntz, Dudley Steele, Walter and Clara Patzer and many other wonderful Grove City residents. I graduated from Franklin University. I have held executive secretary positions with NAPA, Borden Foods, COSI, Glimcher Realty Trust and retired from Battelle Memorial Institute in 2010."

History and genealogy have been a passion of Barb's since 1974 when her aunt introduced her to the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR).

Her husband, Bill, and Barb formed Southwest Franklin County Historical Society with Earl Nicholson in the mid-1980s at a table at the Grove City Library. She and her husband served as president, vice-president, and secretary in the early years of the Society and she is still active in the Society.

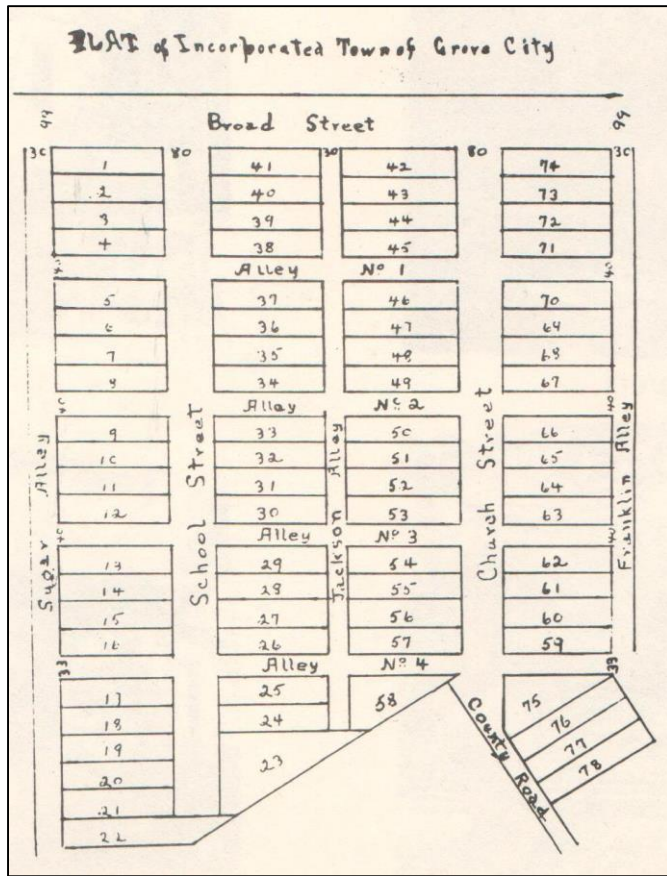
"I have been corresponding secretary of the Franklin County Genealogical and Historical Society and will serve as a trustee in 2016," she said. "I am past president of Palatines To America, member of Ohio Genealogical Society, and Regent of the Columbus Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) until May, 2016 which is the same as being a Chapter President. I have been a member of NSDAR for 41 years. I am also a member of the Hilliard Historical Society.

Barb feels privileged to be a part of the Historical Commission representing the Society at this very pivotal time in the history of Grove City.

"My personal interest is in the renovation of the A. G. Grant property. Ruth Jividen was a very important part of my formative young years. Barb said. "I had the delight of living next door to her and her first husband, Lem Seymour. She was a very positive impact on my childhood."

"This is a once in a life time experience for me to be a part of making decisions that will impact the path forward for Grove City to preserve the history of it."

"My challenge to each of us in the Historical Society is to invite one new member to join the Society, as President Steve Jackson has said." *Continued on Page 6*



Grove City Once Home To Two John Hoovers

In the March, 2015 edition of the *Southwest Pioneer*, Private John Hoover was featured in a story and photograph about his service in the American Revolution and his gravesite on Gantz Road.

But how many people are aware there were two John Hoovers who lived in Grove City? One was a war veteran and the other was a druggist.

Private Hoover's father was John George Hoover and his mother was Rosannah (Catarine), both lived in Pennsylvania. but never left that state.

Private Hoover was born in Lancaster County, PA Feb. 19, 1755. While there, he volunteered for the Pennsylvania Militia and re-enlisted after his initial three months of service was completed.

After the war, he married Margaret Smith, who was born March 12, 1764 at Lancaster in 1785. At some point, Hoover and Margaret decided to move into the wilderness of Kentucky where they purchased a farm in Cynthiana.

Twenty-two years after they were married, Private John in 1807, decided it was time to relocate to another wilderness area in the newly formed state of Ohio.

In an effort to make the move as uncomplicated as possible, he traded his Kentucky farm for a farm in Newark, OH, or so he thought.

Hoover stopped in Chillicothe, the state capital at the time, where he found out the deed to the Newark property was invalid. The individual he traded with didn't have a clear title to the Newark property forcing John to purchase that property a second time.

It's not clear if Private Hoover actually moved his family to Newark because there are references he may have instead moved on to Franklinton in Central Ohio. That settlement at the confluence of the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers was where many of his fellow Kentuckians had settled.

It's also unknown how long the Hoovers lived in the settlement but it was there where he purchased 200 acres for \$400 in what was then Franklin Township; today that land is part of Jackson Township. *Continued on Page 6*

Heritage Event

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He, his wife Elizabeth, and a daughter arrived in Jackson Township around 1850. The land where Breck created his village was previously owned by his father-in-law, Deacon John Smith of Clintonville.

A new history of William Foster Breck and the founding of Grove City will be available in the near future.

Christmas At Century Village Big Success; 600 Attended

More than 600 people visited the Century Village Christmas event in December, according to Steve Jackson, Society president.

"We received many very positive comments and those attending expressed their appreciation for the holiday music," he said.

The Grove City Historical Commission provided a trolley that operated between the Village and the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum and the trolley was full each trip.

A SOCIETY MEETING WILL BE CANCELLED IF SOUTH-WESTERN CITY SCHOOLS CLOSE ON THE DAY A MEETING IS SCHEDULED.

Home To Two Hoovers

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John and Margaret had a son, George Washington Hoover, who was born in the Grove City area Sept. 23, 1824. He died Nov. 27, 1902. George married Nancy Jane Smith Dec. 23, 1847 in Grove City. She was born April 10, 1825 and died May 25, 1887.

One of their children became a pharmacist in Grove City.

The Other John Hoover

Their son would grow up to be known as Dr. John Hoover, a druggist for 50 years in Grove City's downtown business district.

Born around 1856 at the family farm on Hoover Road, he died in 1940 at his home on Clime Road. He married Annie Alkire

Dr. Hoover operated a drugstore until 1932 according to an article in *the Grove City Record*. His drugstore had three different locations in Grove City.

The first business site was in a house on the east side of South Broadway. He later moved his business to space in the Voelkel Hotel building and from there he occupied space on the west side of Broadway. When he retired, the business became identified as Dale's Drugs.

There were at least four other men who served in the American Revolution. They included, according to Historian Harold Windsor:

SAMUEL WHITE, who served in the Virginia militia for seven years. He was scalped by an Indian and left for dead. Born in Virginia about 1750, he settled in Jackson Township in 1805 and is buried in Union cemetery, Briggsdale.

JOSEPH HICKMAN, served throughout the Revolutionary war. Born in Virginia about 1740, he moved to Jackson Township about 1806 and died here in 1821. He is buried at Salem Cemetery.

JONAH SMITH was a private in the Pennsylvania militia. Born 1744 in Pennsylvania, he died in 1823 and is buried in Union Cemetery. He settled near Big Run in 1808.

HENRY SHOVER, was a Revolutionary soldier who emigrated from Virginia in 1812. He was born in Loudon County, Virginia, in 1750. He first settled on a farm near Plain City, and later moved to Jackson Township.

3-C Highway Called 'Monster' Roadway

It seems the 3-C Highway between Grove City and Columbus was once referred to as a 'monster' and Ohio Highway Patrol troopers labeled it as the worst section in Ohio.

The section of the major thoroughfare between Cincinnati and Cleveland was a rough ride and a nightmare for drivers.

The road was described in a Feb. 16, 1940 edition of *the Grove City Record* as bumpy and especially treacherous when wet and slight miscalculations have turned into tragedy.

Ohio Department of Transportation crews responded to the critics by burning off some of the surplus tar on the road but that didn't satisfy local residents.

The village councils at Harrisburg and Grove City were encouraged to organize and do anything possible to demand immediate action.

2016 Calendar of Events

Apr. 8	Members Social, Museum, 7:30-9 pm
Apr. 12	Open House, Museum, 7:30-9 pm
May 28	Century Village Open House, 2-4 pm
June 4	Heritage Celebration, 10 am-6 pm
June 5	Heritage Celebration, 11 am-3 pm
June 25	Century Village Open House, 2-4 pm
July TBA	Historical Society Tour
July 16	Century Village Yard Sale
July 23	Century Village Open House, 2-4 pm
Aug. 27	Century Village Open House, 2-4 pm
Sept. 24	Century Village Open House, 2-4 pm
Oct. 2	Old Time Harvest Day, 1-5 pm
Dec. 10	Christmas Tour, Open House at Century Village and Museum

Monthly Meetings

1 st Tuesday	Society Meeting, St. John's, 7:30 pm
2 nd Thursday	Commission, City Hall, 8:30 am
3 rd Monday	Events Committee, Museum, 7:30 pm
Last Tuesday	Museum Committee, Museum, 7:30

OBITUARY

Raymond William Stark, 73, of Grove City, died Jan. 6, 2016. Ray joined the Society in 2015. Born in Windsor, Canada, he moved to Grove City in 1963. He worked many years as the advertising manager for *the Grove City Record*. He founded Stark & Associates in 1992.

From Our Files

Can anyone identify any of these photographs taken from the files of the Society? We're not sure if they are even from the Southwest Franklin County area. If so, please email grovecityhistory@gmail.com or call Jim Hale at 614-875-9560.



Museum Exhibits Planned For 2016

The Museum Committee has announced tentative exhibits for the New Year, according to Steve Jackson, president.

The museum, located at 3378 Park Street in the Grove City Town Center, is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Tuesdays the museum remains open until 8 p.m.

In April, the Museum will have three showcases displaying the wood carvings of the late Jim O'Harra. He was a paralyzed veteran who was able to partially recover from his injuries and took up wood carvings.

His display is considered spectacular from those who have previewed the carvings.

During May, the Museum will honor those who have served in the military and died in service to the United States. A special month long exhibit will be on display.

Society Represented At Ohio's Statehood Day

Bill and Barbara Howison represented the Society at Ohio Statehouse Day March 1 in Columbus.

Members who have associations or interest in history will meet for a one day event to celebrate Ohio's birthday.

It will also be a day where those attending can visit with members of the Ohio Senate and Ohio Legislature.

Two Fundraising Events Upcoming

Society Members are encouraged to participate.

Bake Sale, July 9 - 8 a.m. until Noon

Grove City Town Center Farmers Market

Please donate a cake, pie, cookies, homemade bread or other baked items for the Society to sell.

Annual Yard Sale, July 16

Century Village at Fryer Park

You can sell and rent space or donate items for the Society to sell.

Watch for Details and Ways to Participate

New Commission Member

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"We need to make sure each of us gets more involved in the Historical Society work whether it's in a small way or a very active way."

The Historical Society needs all members to be front and center in the next coming years as we are at the threshold of bringing forward and finishing many historical projects to the Grove City residents and visitors to Grove City.

"I look forward to getting to know all members better as we undertake this extraordinary opportunity to bring history forward," she said.

Did You Know or Remember?

The **Allenworth Dairy** was once located across from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. It was a large dairy operation and not associated with the Allen Dairy in Franklin Township that also had customers in Grove City.

A man named **Scottie** went to Grove City's railroad station each day to set and recover mail bags that arrived by train. He then delivered the bags to the post office. Anyone know his last name?

The **Columbus Citizen-Journal** ceased operation as the area's six day a week newspaper on Dec. 31, 1985. The newspaper shut down because negotiations for a new joint operating agreement with *the Columbus Dispatch* had failed to reach agreement.

Silas Everett Johnson, from Breman, Ohio, graduated from Ohio Northern University in 1884 then settled in Grove City where he became a partner in the Johnson and Grant Lumber Yard on Park Street. He was affiliated with that business for 46 years. Johnston also taught school in Grove City and served as village mayor. He was married to Evelyn Higgy. After Silas died, Evelyn sold the lumber business to Anton Patzer who later sold it to the Grove City Farmers Exchange.

South-Western City Schools celebrates 60 years in 2016. The district was created in 1956 combining the following districts: Grove City, Urbancrest, Georgesville and the districts of Franklin, Prairie and Pleasant Townships. Today it is the sixth largest in Ohio.

William Sibray, Early Grove City Pioneer

William G. Sibray is a name that comes up in conversation at times but who is he? He was an early pioneer who came with William F. Breck to Grove City from Fairfield County.

Sibray, a brick mason and plasterer, helped clear the settlement of trees and underbrush. He also erected many of the early homes.

"As a young man, Mr. Sibray drove a herd of cattle from Illinois to Washington, D.C.," according to a story in *the Grove City Record* in 1932.

Sibray married Mary Grant in 1851. She was the second daughter of Hugh Grant Jr.

He went on to serve in numerous public offices in the new settlement and earned distinction as an honest and industrious citizen.

Southwest Pioneer

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A 501C3 NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

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Meetings held the first Tuesday each month
St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City

**A WINTER MEETING WILL BE CANCELLED IF
SOUTH-WESTERN CITY SCHOOLS
CLOSE ON A MEETING DAY**

2015 MEMBERSHIPS

Individual	\$15
Business	\$50
Life Member	\$150

A Society member who wants the newsletter delivered by USPS must pay \$7 additional each year. This includes Life Members. No additional charge when the newsletter is sent by E-mail.