

Southwest PIONEER

SEPTEMBER 2016

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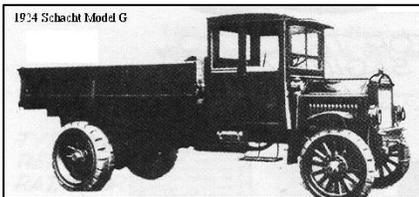
Southwest Franklin County Historical Society
3378-B Park St., Grove City, OH 43123

Fry's Horse Transportation Once Headquartered Here

There was one Grove City early businesses that traveled thousands of miles every year from one race track to another. Fry's Horse Transportation was headquartered on Elm Street adjacent to the Park Street Beulah Park entrance.

The business started in 1924 by Lawrence Fry and a partner remembered only as Jessee. They called their business Jesse and Lawrence's Race Horse Palace Car. Before forming their joint business according to a published account, Fry purchased cattle and pigs and hauled them around Delaware County in a horse drawn wagon.

Once Fry realized that horseless vehicles were here to stay Jessee and Lawrence invested in a Schacht truck and modified it to transport three horses.



also produced automobiles, trucks and fire vehicles from 1904 to 1940.

According to an article written by Charles R. Koch, the new company first hauled horses from the old Columbus Driving Park race track.

Beulah Park was just in the process of opening and soon after Fry was transporting race horses from Beulah to Akron.

Two years after purchasing the Schacht, Fry was replaced it with a Reo truck body that he modified to haul six horses.

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Dirt, Gravel Roads Provided Mobility To Early Settlers

How often do we complain about those orange barrels that clog major roadways but can you realize what our early settlers would say if they were here today. They were happy to have a dirt, gravel or wood plank roads.

It was 167 years ago that the Columbus and Harrisburg Turnpike opened. We know that road today as Broadway, Route 62 and the 3-C Highway.

In those early days, local government wasn't responsible for road construction. Most roads were built by private, for-profit companies and the turnpike was just that.

The company formed in 1847 and Adam Gantz, a prominent Jackson Township businessman, was a member of the board of directors.

Joseph Chenoweth of Harrisburg served as president, George M. Parsons was treasurer and Harvey Bancroft and A. P. Stone also served as directors.

Shares in the new company sold for \$25 each. Construction costs for the road from Columbus to Harrisburg ended up totaling \$35,602. When construction ended, the project was short \$14,787.

The Franklin County Commissioners had donated \$4,500 for construction of a bridge over the Scioto River.

In an effort to cover the debt, two toll gates were established. Fees were applied to the debt which was finally satisfied. None of the stockholders ever received a dividend.

The turnpike was constructed before Grove City became a settlement in 1852. William Foster Breck, founder of Grove City, realized the value of the new road.

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Early Jackson Township
Wagon Trail Road



Many local dairy farms used
the new turnpike to sell their
goods.



Hoover Road in 1905

Dirt, Gravel Roads

From page 1

It's likely William Foster Breck, founder of Grove City, realized the new road would be an asset for his new settlement.

Breck, from Fairfield County, began construction of a brick home for his family around 1848 and he enjoyed sitting on his front porch watching the buggies, wagons and horses pass by his home each day.

Horse Transportation

From page 1

By then the business was expanding into the Carolinas. Within a few years, Fry, was the sole owner of the company known throughout the racing circle as Fry's Horse Transportation. The local firm transported horses as far as Texas and Louisiana.

In 1946, Beale Fry took over the business after his father suffered a stroke. Beale and his wife, the former Betty Tice, purchased a home in Grove City and moved their operation here shortly after a son, Jim, was born.

Over the years, Fry's Horse Transportation has hauled many famous horses throughout the United States. At one point, the company operated a fleet of six horse vans and traveled as far west as Nebraska and Texas and south as far as Louisiana and Florida, according to one of their advertisements.

Jim and his father operated Fry's Horse Transportation for many years before selling the business. Jim became an equine insurance agent, founding Fry's Equine Insurance in 1984 in Grove City.

**Society Meetings are the Second Tuesday
At St. John's Lutheran Church on Columbus St.**

Names from the Past

Silas Everett Johnson

Silas Everett Johnson, another prominent pioneer businessman in Grove City, moved here from Breman, OH.

He graduated from the Ohio Northern University in 1884 and after moving to Grove City taught school for many years. He also founded a lumber business in 1887 with a partner, Adam Grant. They worked together for 46 years.

Johnson was the senior partner of Johnson & Grant Lumber Yard, the predecessor of the Grove City Lumber Yard, once located on West Park Street next to the railroad track.

Johnson was active in the community serving on the village council and as mayor in 1893. He also served on the board of public affairs and was president of the local school board. He was also considered the dean of Grove City businessmen.

After Johnson's death, his wife, Evelyn sold her share of the business to Anton Patzer for \$5,000. Patzer later sold the lumber yard to the Grove City Farmers Exchange.

This information was provided by Darlene Toner about her ancestor, Silas Johnson.

Society Member Deaths

Shirley Bartok

Society member Shirley Baumgartner (White) Bartok, 92, passed away peacefully July 2, at Doctors West Hospital.

Shirley was a 1941 graduate of Grove City High School and attended The Ohio State University.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Grove City, the Presbyterian Women's Association, the Buckeye Senior Chorus, and the Grove City Quilters. Shirley served as a children's choir director and a church organist. She was also active in the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society.

She was preceded in death by her father, Dr. A. B. White and her mother, Minnie (Baumgartner) White; sisters, Vera Ridderbusch and Miriam Todd.

Among her survivors are nieces, Trudie (Tom) Gardner and Brenda (Roy) Steinhoff.

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP

SOURCE: Franklin County Genealogical and Historical Society, 2014

First Settlers and Later Pioneers

The settlement of this township began about 1803-1804 on Darby Creek near Georgesville, even before the township organization.

Among the earliest settlers were the families of Thomas Roberts, John Bigger, James Gardiner, Samuel Dyer, Samuel Kerr and John Turner. In 1805, Samuel Dyer erected a mill, which eventually passed to William Dyer, and was for half a century' the only flouring-mill in the township.

Some of the Later Pioneers

John Smith, Alexander Blair, Michael Dickey, Rueben Golliday, Jacob Gundy, John Topton, William Walker, Richard Heath, Henry Shenefelt, George W. Helmick, Zelotes G. Weddle, J. B. Mitchel, Rueben Chaffin, J. R. Sheeders, Titus England, S. Swisgood, S. H. Cobert, J. Fuller and John Snyder with their families.

The township was organized by its present name in 1807, and then embraced a much greater area than at present. When Jackson and Prairie were formed in 1819, its boundaries shrunk to their present limits.

Pleasant Township was so named because of the pleasant prospect it presented to the pioneer farmers when they came into this portion of the Scioto valley.

Pleasant Post office

The first post office in the township was established in 1815, and named as above. The first postmaster was Thomas Roberts, and the post office was in his house. But ere long the beautiful and pleasant name of the post office was changed.

Georgesville Post office

In 1816 Postmaster Roberts laid out the town of Georgesville, and in 1818, the name was changed from Pleasant to Georgesville. Roberts continued as postmaster until the month of September, 1828, when he was succeeded by Thomas Reynolds, who held the office until July, 1851, when he died. His widow was retained as postmaster until November, 1851, when William Scott was appointed postmaster. He held the position until 1858, being the last of the strictly pioneer postmasters.

The Town of Harrisburg

In 1836, Joseph Chenowith founded the town of Harrisburg, Frederiek Cole, being the "surveyor" who laid it out.

Originally Darby Cross Road, a post office had been established at the same point, but when Harrisburg was established, the name of the post office was changed to correspond.

The first postmaster was John Haines, appointed 1828, succeeded in 1833 by George Geiger and Abram Buckles, 1836; then followed Dr. T. Thompson, 1838; Henry Miller, 1841; J. W. Goetschius, 1841; and Henry Miller again who held the office to 1860, constituting the pioneer postmasters.

The Pioneer Mayors

The legislature of 1850-51 passed an act, and the following were elected Trustees: Henry Miller, J. Chenowith, O. T. Curry, L. W. Seifert and George W. Helmick. The pioneer mayors were .J. Helmick, 1851-54; J. Seeder, 1855; J. Helmick, again, 1856; George W. Helmick, 1857-58.

As far back as 1836, Harrisburg was described as "a lively village," containing about thirty families, two taverns, four stores, two physicians, a church belonging to the Methodist denomination, and a post office.

It is a somewhat larger village now and not at all sleepy at that.

The population of Pleasant Township in 1840 was eight hundred sewn, estimated in 1908 at two thousand three hundred fifty-five.

The population of Harrisburg in 1858 was one hundred fifteen; in 1900, two hundred fifty, and estimated in 1908 at three hundred.

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

Prairie was originally set off and organized in the year 1819. Then, however, its bounds extended farther north and took in a very considerable territory which is now an integral part of Brown Township. The whole originally was embraced in Franklin Township.

Three Original Families

The three original families in Prairie Township were the Samuel Higgins, the Shadrack Postle and the William Mannon, but these families were in one respect, if not in others, put into penumbra, if not wholly eclipsed by the arrival of a Virginia family in 1813, these emigrants coming to Franklin county via Chillicothe, Ross county, where they tarried a

brief season and then came up to the higher latitude of the Scioto country.

Clover Blossoms and Buds

In the year last named "The Clover Settlement" was made by Father and Mother Clover, sons Peter, Joshua, Jacob, Solomon, Henry, Samuel, Philip, John, William and Aaron Clover, and daughters Mary and Jane Clover fourteen in all. However, this was not the largest family, perhaps, that there was in Franklin County during the first half century of its existence, the thing most noted at that period was the great disparity of the sexes - eleven to three.

Two Pioneer Nimrods

Two of these boys, Solomon and Samuel (how suggestive their names of other pursuits) like Nimrod, were mighty hunters, or to give it in the, more expressive and less Biblical form of expression current in that day, they were "Brag Hunters," beyond which there are no degrees of comparison.

They were extremely fond of hunting, made many excursions into the surrounding woods, filled with panthers, wolves, bears, wild turkeys, deer and many other kinds of beasts and bird." and they never failed to bring home the trophies of their prowess. They never came home empty-handed.

Solomon was especially successful in the chase. He led every competitor in the taking of bear, deer and wolves, and that at a time when wolf scalps were worth three dollars-equal to about twenty-four dollars today, relatively speaking-as a stimulus.

A Hunter to the Last

He lived up to the era of the great Civil war, fond of his gun and the excitement of the chase, and when nearing four score, after this section of the state was cleared up, he went annually in the hunting season: into northwestern Ohio where big game still abounded.

The first justice of the peace elected in Prairie Township was Peter Clover, and he was noted as the "Just Squire," and there is a Squire Clover in Prairie Township who traces his lineage back to that model judge of the people's court.

Town and Mere Attempts

In so far as the building of towns is concerned, there was one success and there were two failures in Prairie Township. When the National Road was constructed in 1836, Thomas Graham laid out the town of Alton, and a post

office was established therein. Shortly after Alton had been founded, Messrs. James Bryden and Adam Brotherlin laid out Rome, about two miles east of Alton, so that the latter had a very distinguished rival. Competition was lively for a few years, but Alton continued and Rome discontinued. Fifty was the high-water mark of its population.

In 1832, Job Postle laid out and plotted the town of Lafayetteville. This town never progressed further than its delineation on paper. However, it has produced fine crops of corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, etc., for more than 60 years.

Postmaster and Pioneers

The post office of Alton is still doing business, and the village itself is not a sleepy one. John Graham was the first postmaster, followed by Mervin Stiarwalt, David P. Cole, Solomon Putnam, Goodhue McGill and A. W. Shearer, who held the office up to the early '60s.

Among the other pioneers were Francis Downing, Israel P. Brown, William Stiarwalt, George Richey, Russell N. Grinnold, John G. Neff, Reuben Golliday, Thomas O'Hara, David Howard, Thomas J. Moorman, John Gantz, Samuel Kell, Andrew W. Shearer and Smith Postle.

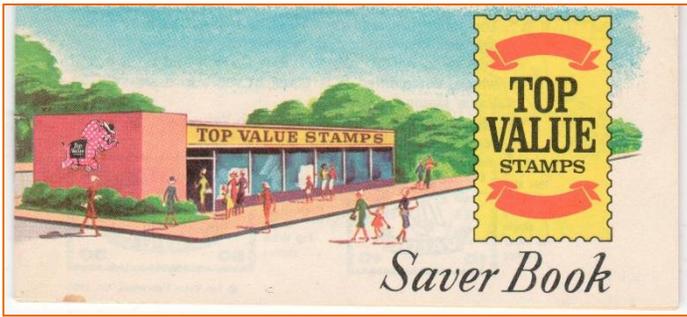
A local writer in 1855 says "There are three Methodist churches in this township; one at Clovers' settlement, and one in the south part of the township known, as the Henderson church. There is a German Lutheran church about two miles north of Rome, a hewed, log building which serves both for church and schoolhouse. In this a well conducted German school is taught."

In 1840 the township had a population of six hundred and six; in 1850, one thousand and forty three; in 1858, one thousand one hundred and seventy-two; in 1900, one thousand five hundred and eighty-two; in 1908, estimated one thousand six hundred and fifty.

Library Closed To Complete Move

The Grove City Library closed Sept. 2 and the new library on Broadway and is scheduled to open in late September. The last due date for checked out material at Grove City Library will be Sept. 2. There will be no due dates during the time the Grove City Library is closed. Nothing will be due until Oct. 3.

Returns will not be accepted at either the old or new Grove City building during the close.



Remember these days? Top Value and Green Stamps were some of the most common rewards for shopping at select businesses. The Big Bear (Harts) chain also had its own stamps. Stamps could be redeemed for various household items instead of spending cash. Stamps were also available at gas stations.

Newest Society Member Helps Form Junior Society

Alexander Tadlock, one of the Society's newest and youngest member, has already stepped up and expressed an interest in helping organize a Grove City Junior Historical Society.

Plans are still being developed to create an organization of young people interested in local history and helping with Society projects.

New Members Needed

Society At Critical Point

By Steve Jackson
Society President

So far, this has been a good year bringing in 16 new members to the historical society but we still need to continue reaching out to residents and others who are interested in helping preserve local history.

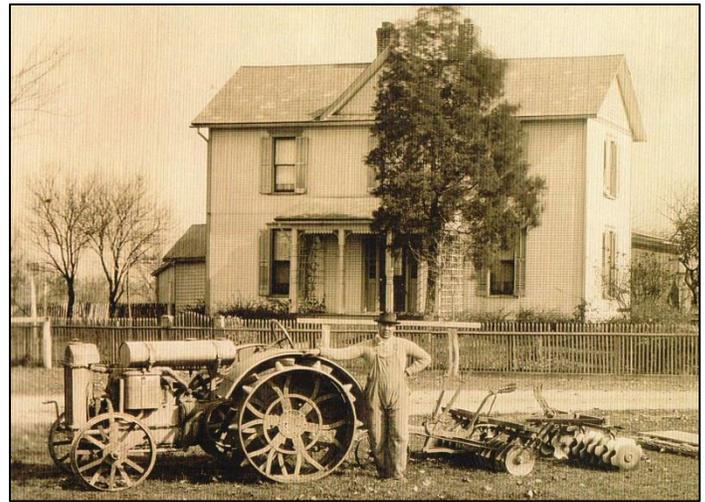
The Society has several new challenges and we need new talent and more people who are interested in helping us meet our goals.

It is essential we make plans now to move into the computer age with our own web site. Like it or not, the computer, the smart phone, tablets and have become an important means of communication in this new age.

We must take a look and decide if we can participate using communication tools such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, just to mention a few.

To move in that direction, we will need additional funding. We need to be thinking about and discussing these possibilities.

See related story on Page 6



Malcom Borror prepares for a day's work on the Borror farm that was located on Jackson Pike circa 1920. Photo provided by Dick Shover.

Museum Now Collecting Family Stories, Pictures

Family pictures, stories and histories are now being collected and housed at the Society office at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum.

The information is filed by family surname and where possible it is cross referenced with other families.

Society members who would like to donate photos or other family information, including genealogy, for future generations and research, are encouraged to leave the information in an envelope at the museum marked Family History.

The information can include newspaper clipping, personal stories and photographs.

Persons interested in participating in the project are urged to identify all people in photographs by first, middle and last name if possible. If individuals cannot be identified by full name, we must at least know a last name.

None of this information is on a computer at this time.

The museum is open weekdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.

**Invite a friend or relative
to join the Society**

2016 Calendar of Events

- 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

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



The baseball exhibit still in place at the museum. If you haven't seen this collection time is running out. Bring a friend interested in baseball with you to see this exhibit first hand.

Society Will Now Have Presence On Internet

Most Central Ohio historical societies have an Internet presence and now the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society has joined that group.

At the September meeting, the membership gave unanimous approval to the creation of a web site. Work has already started and the target date to launch is December.

The site will have historical information about the city and townships, historical events at Century Village, photographs and much more.

An effort will be made to see if sponsors could help cover the cost of creation and yearly maintenance.

Those interested in helping with web site development can call Jim Hale at 614-875-9560 or email grovecityhistory@gmail.com.

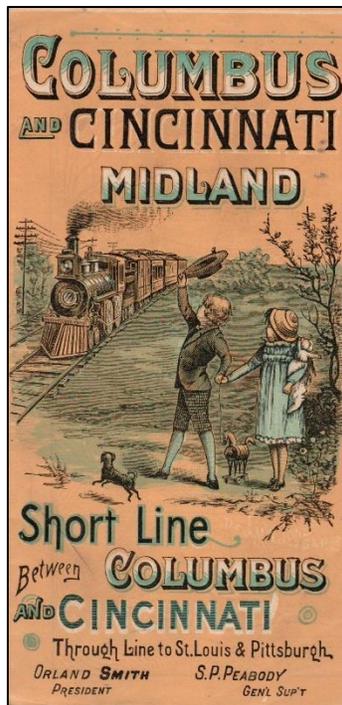
Seven New Members Join Society This Last Quarter

Seven new members have joined the Society this past quarter, according to Janet Garza, membership chairperson.

This brings the total of new members in 2016 to 16.

New members this past quarter include Steve Robinette, Ted Berry, James Miner, Joseph Forte, Keith Stenerson, Reginal Thielen and Jeff Davis.

**Don't forget to volunteer.
 You are important to our success!**



Railroad Lines Through Grove City and Jackson Township

In the next issue of the Southwest Pioneer, we will feature a story on the Columbus and Cincinnati Midland Railroad that ran through Grove City and another railroad line planned and started but never completed.

Southwest Pioneer

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 Southwest Franklin County Historical Society
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Meetings held the first Tuesday each month
 St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City

2016 MEMBERSHIPS

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

Newsletter by Email included with membership

If newsletter is mailed it is \$7 extra each year