

Southwest PIONEER

September 2017

grovecityhistory@gmail.com

Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

www.grovecityohhistory.org

Old Time Harvest Day Just One Month Away

One of the premier events of the year is slated for Century Village Sunday, Oct. 1.

Besides being an excellent time to celebrate the heritage of the area, it could also be a time to recruit new members into the Society, according to Steve Jackson, president.

"If you know someone who might be interested in preservation of history, invite them to the Old Time Harvest Day event," Jackson said. "Better yet, meet your friends there and show them around and find out their level of interest."

"The targeted age group for new and active members is between 55 and 65 years of age," Jackson said. He added that is generally the age adults no longer have the commitment of raising children and many are looking for new opportunities.

"Don't be afraid to ask people to join with us," he said. "I really think there are many people out there who are just waiting to be asked to take part."



Dutch Pike, known today as Grove City Road, has seen its share of floods. See Page 2 for more.

Jaycees: "Save the Depot"

Rail Station History Dates Back To 1884

The railroad construction crew reached Grove City in March of 1884 and the first train rolled through the area Nov. 1 of that year.

Thousands of passengers rode the rails to Columbus and points south eliminating the need for stage coach routes to the cities along the rail line.

But after 72 years of service, the passenger train service stopped on July 20, 1956. Many Grove City area residents boarded the passenger cars headed south for one last ride to Mt. Sterling and beyond.

The Grove City High School Band, under the direction of Richard Harris, also rode the passenger train entertaining crowds at each stop along the way.

Engine 233 was late arriving at the Grove City station because it had struck a vehicle at an Urbancrest crossing. The delay was brief since little damage occurred.

Wendell Renick, wearing a Confederate cap and driving a 1915 Cadillac, met with Granville Shoaf who was chugging along in a vintage Ford. Both entertained the crowd waiting for the train.

Several local residents took pictures including Walter Bentley, Marie Thompson, Vernon Fisher and Kenneth Wade.

Freight service continued until 1972 when the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was forced by economic reason, to abandon the freight agent and loading service.

That same year, the Grove City Jaycees, a men's civic organization, learned that the railroad was considering a possible move of the station to Carillon Park, a railway museum in Dayton.

The Jaycees kicked off a movement called "Save the Depot" to make sure the station remained in the city as part of the local heritage.

According to a story in *the Grove City Record*, petitions were circulated and the City of Grove City passed a resolution supporting the Jaycees. An unsuccessful effort was made by the Jaycees to acquire the depot building.

At the same time, Harold Morland, president of the Grove City Community Historical Society, also approached the B&O Railroad.

See Page 2

Harvest Day, Oct. 1 Was Significant Date In World History

Sunday, Oct. 1 is the day Grove City and Southwest Franklin County celebrate Harvest Day but did you know there are many other world events that occurred on that date?

Consider the Model T on display at the museum. Henry Ford's Model T went on sale for the first time Oct. 1, 1908. The car was considered a universal car because Ford had designed it for the masses and not the elite. The car was popularly known as the Tin Lizzie. More than 15 million of the vehicles were built.

On Oct. 1, 1937, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Marihuana Tax Act that caused possession of cannabis to be a criminal act. The legislation stipulated marihuana could not be sold without a license; no licenses were ever issued.

Another world event that occurred on that same date in 1938 was when Britain and France agreed to cede the German-speaking area of Czechoslovakia to Hitler. The effort was to avoid a greater war. It didn't work because Hitler broke the agreement and occupied all of Czechoslovakia.

In 1946 at the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany, 12 accused Nazi leaders were sentenced to death for war crimes.

Mao Zedong became the chairman of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

In 1964, the Japanese Bullet Train made its first run to coincide with the Olympics being held in Tokyo. The first train ran more than 130 miles per hour. Today's trains exceed 300 mph.

And another Oct. 1 event occurred in 1979 when the United States gave up control of the Panama Canal Zone to the government of Panama.

Other Oct. 1 events include:

- ✓ Muhammad Ali beat Joe Frazier in the fourth round in 1975.
- ✓ Swine Flu hit the United States in 1976 causing the largest immunization program in U. S. history.
- ✓ EPCOT theme park opened in 1982 at Disney World in Florida.
- ✓ Ross Perot was a candidate 1989.

Save the Depot

From Page 1

Morland proposed in a letter that the historical society should be allowed to take over the ownership of the building so it could be used as a museum to house historical writings, photographs and artifacts.

At the same time the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio was conducting hearings to determine if they would allow the B&O to abandon the depot. They finally decided on the side of the railroad and the station was officially abandoned.

After more than a year of negotiation, the Jaycees entered into a contract with the B&O Railroad that allowed them to renovate the aging structure. The project lasted until 1975 and on July 4 the building was dedicated. The station showed well after extensive remodeling that included insulated walls, a new furnace, new paneled walls, refinished floors, and a fresh coat of paint on the outside of the building.

Later that year, the Jaycees acquired a B&O caboose, number C2202. That was also



renovated by the Jaycees and sat for many years on a side track at the station.



Volunteers Needed

Members interested in becoming a volunteer at the recently renovated Grant-Sawyer Homestead must undergo a training program. Interested?

Call Steve Jackson, 614-871-0081



This is a scene from Grove City Road looking at the Grove City Lumber Yard. Water during this 1943 flood reached 20 inches at the buildings.



Broadway also had a light coating of flood water allowing traffic to pass.

Grove City Has Experienced Flooding In Past Years

Grove City has fallen victim at least three times with flooding that covered many downtown streets including Broadway.

One of the first floods was the major 1913 flood that inundated portions of the westside of Columbus and areas south including land in and around Grove City. A second flood occurred in 1943, pictured above, and another in 1959 that many older residents at the time said was the worst in the history of the village.

The pictures in this collection have been



This is a scene that shows debris floating on Elm Street in the 1943 flood. These pictures belonged to Clyde and Lottie Smith who lived on Elm Street which was part of the Daniel P. Smith farm from the 1840s. The view below is Grove City Road looking west toward Broadway. Water in this area reached a depth of 18 inches.



provided by Stephen Smith of Logan, Ohio, and they were taken with a box camera in 1943 by his grandparents.

According to a 1943 article in the Grove City Record, rain started at 9 p.m. and continued steadily for 24-hours. Grant Run overflowed with a rushing torrent of water that flooded much of the downtown area.

“I remember the flood in 1959,” Smith said. “Water was nearly to the top of the rails at Grove City Road and Front Street. There had been high water problems west of the train tracks after heavy downpours for some time.”

“The watershed flowed from the high point at Demorest Road east to the railroad tracks, which had the effect of a dam.” *Continued Page 3*

Grove City Floods

Continued from Page 2

Flooding was a problem that concerned both residents and city officials for some time. The reason the January 1953 flood caused so much damage was the rain came when the ground was frozen.

The railroad tracks prevented heavy flooding east of the tracks but residents who lived west of the tracks suffered high water in basements and in some cases flood waters reached their main floor.

“Many plans and suggestions were discussed including farm drain ditches, a diversion ditch from Grove City Road south to Rench Road, large storm sewers and a reservoir on the west of the town,” Smith recalled.

Harrisburg was especially hard hit. Harrisburg-Georgesville Road was closed, Gay Road was washed out as was the road in front of the Harrisburg Elementary School.

Memories . . .

Stories about Southwest Franklin County

These brief stories have been submitted that tell stories about Southwest Franklin County. Anyone can submit a story on any topic. Pick up a “Memories” form at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum and share your story. Residents and members of the Society can also email articles to grovecityhistory@gmail.com. These are reprinted in the writer’s own words.

The Frame House Between Schools

The small building between the two schools was a building that was called “the portable”. It was used for the High School Band. The band practiced there and it had a closet of sorts in the back where the band uniforms were stored. It was effectively the music department of the school. I would say that it was the equivalent of portable class rooms that are deployed today. I remember participating in band in that building with Richard Harris as band director. Later when the “new” high school was built next door to the old one in the late 50s,



the band room was moved to the new high school building.

Tim Eyerman

+++++

The small frame house in the school building picture, is the school band room. It was a white framed, one room building. I don't know if it was moved in or built for a band room. Mr. Hairs was the band teacher.

Joan Eyerman

+++++

The frame house was the school’s music room and also housed the vocal music.

Ray Baer

Borrer Family Reunion

Published in the

Circleville Democrat Watchman

Oct. 31, 1884

Borrors Corners, Oct. 22, the citizens of Jackson Township, Franklin County, met at the residence of Absalom Borrer, Sr. to the number of 220 to celebrate his 80th birthday. The day was pleasant as could be asked for, and when the table was spread it was laden with the good things of the land by the many visitors, and in addition to that there was the fatted calf, killed and roasted in halves, and a pig roasted whole. After the bountiful repast was partaken of, the Rev. Carter, of the Darbyville Circuit of the M. E. Church made a speech which was done with credit to himself and quite an honor to the children and grandchildren, who through the Rev. Carter presented their father and grandfather a gold-headed cane that cost forty dollars, with the transcription on it of, “Presented to A. Borrer, Sen, by his children and grandchildren, on the 21st day of October, in honor to his 80th anniversary,” in addition his grandson and granddaughter, A. M. Borrer and Fedelia Borrer, presented him with a fine comfort; his three granddaughters, the children of Elizabeth Brown, presented him with a Marshawn pipe, cigar-holder and penknife, and a red bandana handkerchief. A. Borrer, Sen was born in Hardy County, Virginia in 1804, moved to Ohio in Oct., 1811-settled on the same farm where he now lives, about 200 yards west of where his residence stands. And we may say that he has never moved in the 73 years that he has lived in Ohio- has been the strongest supporter of the Christian Church that stands on his farm. He is the father of ten children, five boys and five girls-there are two of the boys now living, and three girls. Hiram, the oldest, lives west of and joins farms with his father. John S., better known as Squire Borrer, being the third boy, and lives at Borrors Corners; Lewis died in 1869, his

widow lives at Borrors Corners; Ephraim died in 1879, his wife lives north of Borrors Corners; Elizabeth Brown lives west of Commercial Point, in Pickaway County; Martha J. Malott lives near Grove City, in Jackson township; Christiana Haines lives south of her father; Nancy C. Swagler died in 1875; the other girl died unmarried in the year 1868; the boy died in infancy. There are 36 grandchildren-17 boys and 19 girls living. There are 15 grandchildren dead, 9 boys and 6 girls. There are 17 great-grandchildren living and 2 dead, making a total of 80 being the proceeds of his loins being equal to his age. And the cane cost forty dollars, being a sum equal to 50 cents for each of his offspring. You will perceive that the entire family live in Jackson township except Elizabeth Brown and family, who lives in Scioto township, Pickaway County. Of his own family, they all have children, except John S., who is now a widower and has no family living. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren all live in Jackson except William, the oldest son of Lewis, who lives in Pickaway County with his three great-grandchildren; and Franklin, the third son of Hiram, he lives in the same county as William and has two great-grandchildren. A Guest.

Submitted by Dick Shover

Huffman's Poultry Farm



Huffman's Poultry Farm on Borrow Road was my Great Uncle Floyd and Aunt Bertha Huffman.

They had one son named Wade, his mother's maiden name. The house still is there.

Joan Eyerman

Reaver's Flying Service

I remember Reaver's Flying Service that was on Broadway Street in Grove City. I took flying lessons from Charlie Reaver for my private pilot's license. After my flying lessons, Mrs. Reaver would have hot chocolate for us to drink while he would be discussing my flying lesson. Whenever I or one of his other students would go out in the airplane to practice our flight maneuvers by ourselves, he would always say: "Don't get lost!"

Colonel Victor Wolfe

Ziner Farm

I grew up in Grove City and still live here today. I remember when my school bus used to drive past the Ziner farmhouse on Hoover Road. Farmer Ziner used to throw candy to us kids when he passed by our houses on his tractor! I'd love to see old photos of the property

before it was demolished...could you help me?
Stephanie Rodriguez

Oral Histories

BROFFORD, Arthur Webster

Bob was born in a farm house on McKinley Avenue near San Margherita, an unincorporated neighborhood west of Columbus. Later, the family moved to Mound Street across from the Old Redbird Stadium where he had a "knot hole" pass to all games.

ESPOSITO, Mike

Mike is recognized as a man who has contributed countless hours of volunteer work. He grew up in Grandview, Ohio, and attended both the Ohio State University and Franklin University in the business field. He remembered the ice cream shop B. J. Roach operated, the Weethee junk car lot, Rink's Department Store and the A&W Root Beer drive-in, all located on Stringtown Road.

FARNSWORTH, Pauline Woda

Pauline was 12 years old when her family moved to Grove City. She had just finished a half year in the seventh grade at West High School. She said it was a "pretty rude awakening for a city girl to come to a little country village." Pauline grew up in Columbus on the Hilltop on Ogden Avenue.

GEYER, Leroy

Leroy grew up on a farm in Jackson Township and worked farms as an adult but he is best known as a barber in the Town Center. He recalled when White Road, where he lives today, was once called Breckenridge Road that extended all the way to Rt. 23 (High Street) crossing the Clickenger Bridge that spanned the Scioto River.

Read more of these interesting stories at the Grove City Public Library.

Thanks!

The "Own a Piece of History" sale of old newspapers and magazines was a big success.



OBITUARY

Weinhart

Marvin E. Weinhart, 87, a lifelong resident of Grove City and strong supporter of local history died June 19, 2017.

Marvin was born Feb. 28, 1930 to the late Earl W. and Mary I. (Whitlaw) Weinhart. He graduated from Jackson Township High School Class of 1947. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and was able to be part of the Honor Flight group in May 2015. He was past-president of the Ohio Lumberman's Association.



He retired after 49 years with many of those as manager of Grove City Lumber Yard. Marvin was active in his community and held many memberships: Grove City Evening Lions Club (50+ years as member and a past-president), Southwest Franklin County Historical Society, and Evans Senior Center. Marvin was a lifelong member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. In addition to Marvin's parents he is preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Emily (Erbe). He is survived by his daughters Melinda (Dirk) Krouskop and Carol (Mark) Williams.

Marcum

Wilma Emma Jean Marcum, 88, passed away Aug. 22, 2017 at the Kobacker House. She was born Oct. 11, 1928 in Grove City to the late Edward and Lillie (Bausch) Iftner. She was a 1946 graduate of Jackson Township High School.

She retired from the State of Ohio, Department of Human Services. Member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church; member and past treasurer of the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society. Visitation will be 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28, at the Schoedinger Grove City Chapel, 3920 Broadway. Funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. John's. Interment at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery. Contributions in Wilma Jean's memory may be made to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Organ and Refurbishing Fund or the Kobacker House.



Player Piano Now Housed At Museum

There was one item owned by Ruth Sawyer Jividen that didn't fit the correct time period for the recently renovated Grant-Sawyer home.

Jividen was the last member of the Grant family to live at the homestead.

That object was a player piano that has now found a new home at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum.

Her piano was a Pianista, built by the Autopiano Company, a firm almost forgotten today. In the early 1900's, it was the largest manufacturer of player pianos in the world.

The company's vast factory stretched from 50th to 52nd Street on the Hudson River.

Not only did they make quite a number of pianos, the company had a reputation of making "exceptionally well made" instruments.

The company's history spanned the glory years of the player piano (roughly 1895-1925).

Founded in 1903, the company collapsed in 1930, done in by the Victrola, radio, and the beginning of the Great Depression.

Jividen's piano was state of the art when made about 1915-1920.

Society members are attempting to locate the serial number so the piano can be more precisely dated.

The piano will be the featured attraction at the October Society meeting which will be held in the main display area of the museum.

The Society thanks Colonel Victor Wolfe for tuning the piano and David Brokaw for restoring it.

"We're lucky to have inherited such a beautiful instrument," according to Steve Jackson.

Thank You

Aug. 1, 2017

Dear Historical Society,

Thank you very much for including me on the trip to Adena. Even though I grew up in Ohio, I had no idea about the governor and his home or family.

It was very a very interesting trip and I had a great time.

Sharon Shaum
Granbury, Texas



Anyone look familiar? This was taken in 1952 during the centennial celebrating the founding of Grove City. These “officers” made sure that every man without whiskers was arrested. Lightning E. L. Evans is fourth in the back row. Others believed to be in the picture were Dutch Weber, Ray Ruoff, Gene Edgington and possibly Bob England. If you can identify anyone in the picture, please let Steve Jackson know or email the information to grovecityhistory@gmail.com.

New Computer Fund Has Raised \$1,531

The goal to raise \$1,500 without tapping into the Society checking account has surpassed the goal collecting \$1,531.

Life Member Les Bostic kicked off the fund raising effort with an initial \$100 cash contribution followed by an additional \$500 from his charitable foundation administered through the Columbus Foundation.

Other donations have included: James F. Hale, \$300; Joan Eyerman, \$125; Dick Shover and Gary Shu, \$100 each; Quin Wells, Steve Jackson, Barbara Howison, Bob Traphagan and Brenda Steinhoff, \$50 each; and \$56.79 from the sale of newspapers and magazines at the museum.

Options are being reviewed and plans are to order the computer system in September. A review of the recommendations will be presented to the Society at the meeting Sept. 5.

Arts in the Alley Volunteers Needed To Work Museum

Volunteers are needed to help at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum during Arts in the Alley the third weekend in September.

The plan is to have the museum open as much as possible and Society members are needed to help monitor and assist with the visitors.

“Any time we have a large group of people in the museum we need additional eyes to avoid and correct any problems that can pop-up,” said Don Ivers.

Individual Society members who have a few hours of volunteer time available are encouraged to call Don at the museum to volunteer. He can be reached at 614-277-3061.



If you haven't been to the museum lately you are missing out on a new exhibit from local resident Rodney Eakin. Beautiful stones, insects, shells and even an alligator head is on display. Plan to stop by this week.

Antique Doorbell Is On Display At Museum

Many people today probably think the doorbell we use is a fairly modern invention but they actually date back to 1817 in Birmingham, England.

Just in case you're interested, William Murdoch, who was from Scotland, was the inventor.

A 145 year old doorbell that once graced the front door at the home of Alfred and Myranda Lukens Taylor is now on display at the museum.



This 1872 artifact was donated by Joan Eyerman.



*It's not too early to
being thinking about a
gift for that
"hard-to-buy-for"
Special Person*

**Local History Books
Available at the Museum**

Southwest Pioneer

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Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

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MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

Monthly Meetings first Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church, 3220 Columbus St.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2 nd Thursday	Commission, City Hall, 8:30 am
1 st -3 rd Mondays	Events Committee, Museum, 7:30 pm
Last Tuesday	Museum Committee, Museum, 7:30

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

Quarterly Newsletter Sent by email

Quarterly Newsletter by Mail is \$9 extra

Images of America, Grove City.....	\$25.00
Images of America, Grove City II.....	\$25.00
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