

Southwest PIONEER

MARCH 2018

Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

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grovecityohhistory.org

Was Grant's Winton City's First Auto?

There's no way of knowing for sure but according to an article in the Grove City Record written by Jane Schmitz in 1976, Adam G. Grant was the first person to own a car in Grove City around 1900. According to her



research, that vehicle was a Winton.

The Winton Motor Carriage Company was located in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1899, it was the largest automobile manufacturer in the United States.

The company produced a unique newspaper ad that encouraged potential buyers to: *"Dispense with a horse and save the expense, care and anxiety of keeping it. To run a motor carriage cost about 1/2 cent a mile."*

The advertising of the day claimed the hand built motor carriage was handsome, strong and elegantly finished. It was easy to drive at speeds of 3-20 miles an hour.



1899 Winton

Not a picture of Grant's car

Suspension wire wheels and pneumatic tires with ball bearings provided a good ride.

The Winton sold for \$1,000.

Local farmers referred to the vehicles as "infernal machines".

The manufacturer also promoted its hydrocarbon motor as being both simple and powerful with no odor and no vibration.

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Two Freezer Lockers Once Operated Here

Two freezer locker companies once operated in Grove City in the 1940s. Very limited information is available.

One Grove City firm was The Zero Locker Company which was incorporated with Orin Breckenridge as secretary and Russ Haines as president. The location of this company is unknown.

The other freezer firm, according to information in an article by Betty Seese, was part of Randall Wade's Grocery located on the west side of Broadway across from Jackson Alley.

Freezer lockers were rented to local residents where they could store meat and other perishables before refrigeration and freezers were common in area homes.

A local man named Ned Breckenridge once operated a grocery where Massenelli's Market was once located on Grove City Road.

Randal Wade's Grocery was across the street from a restaurant operated by Mamie Hill. The Hill family lived above the restaurant which was beside the former Kroger Store.

Wade's Grocery was next to Hanna's Pharmacy that had been purchased by Fred Wallace. Near the pharmacy was DeVault's Restaurant, a staircase accessed the second floor bowling alley. Later it was Otto Galle's Store.

Otto Galle's father, Jacob, once operated a saloon on Broadway at Jackson Alley.

VFW Post Responsible For Home Mail Delivery

A joint meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 36 21 and its Ladies Auxiliary was held May 23, 1946 to plan to petition for door-to-door mail delivery in Grove City.

Commander Clarence C. Grossman told those gathered that he had learned that postal receipts had reached a level that would allow home delivery of mail.

Planning for petitions was approved but it wasn't until January 1947 that a petition with 580 signatures was submitted. In August that year, the new VFW Commander Frank Weygandt was notified that the requirements were met but no date was mentioned when service would begin. The veterans' organization decided to take a new approach.

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Down Memory Lane

How many Society members remember or have heard stories about the following. Any information would be appreciated. Please mail or drop off your memories at the Society office, 3378 Park St., or email to grovecityhistory@gmail.com.

Grove City once had:

- ✓ Two ice cream manufacturers
- ✓ A mushroom plant
- ✓ Two coal yards
- ✓ Slaughter house
- ✓ Cannery for apples, orchards
- ✓ Organ manufacturer
- ✓ A shoe cobbler
- ✓ Six tourist camps
- ✓ Five dance halls
- ✓ Blacksmith shop
- ✓ Novelty Factory
- ✓ Silent film movie theatre

Broadway Gets 'White Line'

A historic public announcement was made July 5, 1946 as it related to Broadway. The Grove City Village Council, at its July session, approved a resolution that allowed the Ohio Department of Transportation to paint a white line down the middle of Broadway.

Grant's Winton

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Backfires were notorious for frightening horses along the country roads causing them to buck when vehicles approached.

As a result, the village passed an ordinance that stated any person driving a motorized carriage must come to a complete stop when a horse drawn buggy approached. The vehicle had to remain stopped until the horse was led around "the machine".

"However, when the automobile became a necessity rather than luxury, the once irritated farmers were compelled to exchange their trusty steeds for a more efficient means of getting around," Schmitz wrote.

VFW Mail Delivery

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It asked the approximate 2,000 residents of Grove City to participate in a letter writing campaign that brought success by November. Jacob Stage and Edwin Smith were hired as the new mail carriers. *Source: Earl Nicholson, 1993*



Depot Makes Move From Grove City Town Center

Grove City's 1888 railroad depot finally made its move from the Town Center to Century Village on Jan. 23. The trip was completed in about 90 minutes, less than the projected time.

The only delay was caused at the start of the move when branches (*top photo*) were hanging too low and threatened to cut into the protective plastic cover.

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Depot Makes Move South

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There were four major turns but with city crews assisting, the moves were completed without incident. Those included railroad track crossing, Grant Avenue to Broadway, Broadway to Orders Road and the final turn into Century Village.

The turn at Orders required a backing maneuver and realignment of the rear axle but it was completed in short order.

The old depot is slated to be moved onto its foundation as soon as the ground hardens enough to complete the move.



**All Society Meetings
Are Now at 7 p.m.**

Should Caboose Make A Return Trip To Grove City?

Should the old Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) caboose that sat at the depot make a return trip to Grove City?

The caboose originally was secured and renovated by the Grove City Jaycees. They acquired it from the Chessie System in 1976.

For a time it was the Society's office, and was once the office for the Grove City Chamber of Commerce. Little Theatre Off Broadway once had occupancy.

The Jaycees were young men between the ages 18-35. The civic organization promoted numerous projects including sports, health and welfare. The group supported programs that taught public speaking, written communication and financial planning.

In 1972, they spearheaded the first effort to restore the station. They dubbed their effort "Save the Depot."

By 1973, they had a contract with the B&O Railroad allowing them to restore and renovate the building at Century Village.

As time passed, the caboose fell into a poor condition again and it was moved to Green's Heritage Village at Commercial Point where it was again restored and put on public display.

Today, the caboose is still at Green's farm and is in poor condition that requires considerable effort and funding to become a companion unit to the depot.

The Society will need to decide soon whether it is worth bringing the caboose back to Grove City or attempt to secure another unit from a rail road company.



Society Member Participated In Match Program

There are numerous ways for a non-profit organization to obtain new funding sources but one that is too often overlooked is a matching gift program.

One Society member has successfully worked with her employer and made the historical society a benefactor.

Denice Fogle works for the international firm, Thomson Reuters.

Last year, following the untimely death of her son Sam (who was also a life member of the Society), she wanted to continue to support historical society projects.

She contacted her Human Resources (HR) department to find out if the matching program was still in place.

She has made donations to the Society this way before, but this time she was happy to learn that instead of a 50 percent match they now matched at the 100 percent level for donations between \$50 to \$1,000. She said the process was not difficult.

"I had to prove to HR I had made a specific donation and after several weeks the company issued a check of equal value that was mailed to the society," she said.

Not every company may have a matching gift program but she encourages Society members to "ask and take advantage of this great way of stretching your gift dollars".

"Some firms advertise gifting, some don't but it can be a good source of income for a non-profit," she explained. "My company's policies have been known to change. You have to be pro-active and check with your employer. I was thrilled when I discovered the policy changed from 50 percent match to now matching at the 100 percent level."

Denice said Thompson Reuters also encourages employees to become community volunteers. Another recent change—regular employees may be allowed up to 16 paid work hours during the course of a year.

As a reward for volunteer service, a charitable organization can also apply for a Thomson Reuters grant up to \$500 after the

employee has completed a minimum of 20 volunteer hours with the organization.

"It's easy and I think everyone should be looking into this option," she said.

Grossman Hardware Had New Water Pumps

It may be hard to realize today but running water inside a house was once a luxury.

H. G. Grossman Hardware Co., in Grove City, made it easy for homeowners in October 1930 with this new water pumping system.

At a cost of only \$105 every home could experience running water without using a hand pump or drawing water from a well.

His advertising flyer also advertised work gloves for 10 cents, electric lights 20 cents each for up to 50 watt. The flyer also advertised a furnace scoop shovel for 99 cents and a corrugated coal bucket for 49 cents.

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Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

A 501C3 NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

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MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

Monthly Meetings first Tuesday at 7 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 pm
Last Tuesday	Museum Committee, Museum, 7 pm

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

Quarterly Newsletter Included sent by Email
Quarterly Newsletter Mailed, \$9 extra yearly

Let's give a big

Thanks!

to the following businesses and individuals for their financial support of the Society's Web Site and Facebook.

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