

# Southwest PIONEER

SEPTEMBER 2018

Southwest Franklin County Historical Society  
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grovecityohhistory.org

## Profile of an Early Settler

# Woolery Coonrod Was Early Jackson Pioneer

By **Richard E. Strickler**

Woolery Coonrod (often Conrad, in documents and Jackson Township histories) was born June 23, 1778, the eighth of 10 children of Ulrich, Jr. and Elisabeth Destern Coonrod.

Little is known of Woolery's early years but it is assumed, since his family owned a mill and several hundred acres of farmland that he learned the values of hard work and discipline at an early age.

In 1798, Woolery married Elizabeth Brunnermach in Pendleton County. They were the parents of 6 children; Catherine (b 1799), Margaret (1801), Jesse (1813), Mary (1814), James (1815) and Elizabeth (1816). Wollery, Elizabeth, Catherine and Margaret arrived at what eventually became Jackson Township in 1804, only a year after the first settler, Hugh Grant.

Not much is known of the first two decades of Woolery's life in Jackson Township. Surely, he spent many hard hours clearing and draining the fertile Scioto River bottom land where he settled and continued to raise his family.

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## Once Playing at the Grove Theater

Friday and Saturday had been designated Super Western Days with features including *Geronimo* and *Congo Bill* on the local Screen. For adults, *Bride for Sale* with Claudette Colbert and Robert Young and *The Blue Danube* with Angela Langsbury were featured

## Kingston School Opened 68 Years Ago In June

The building most residents of Grove City know today as the Kingston Building, home of Grove City Parks and Recreation, first opened as a school.

A new school building was needed in the community, a fact known since the end of World War II.

A bond issue had previously been approved by voters but construction was delayed because of a shortage of building materials.

Architects Walker, Norwice and Templin of Dayton finally completed the project allowing the school to open in January 1950.

The Grove City-Jackson Exempted Village School District relocated the first thru third grades from the old Park Street School (*once located at the northeast corner of Arbutus and Park St.*) to Kingston School.

At the same time, the school district moved grades 4-5 and part of the sixth grade from the Jackson School to the old Park Street School building. The Jackson School was located at the curve on Park Street just west of the present building.

Grades 6-7 were to remain in the Jackson Building now designated Jackson Junior High. Eighth graders were also moved from the high school to the Jackson building.

Margaret Wade was a new hired first grade teacher at Kingston.

## Society Dinner Sept. 6 At China Bell Restaurant

The Society's first dinner party will be Thursday, Sept. 6 at China Bell, 1947 Stringtown Road. The event is a social and a fund raising effort.

Tickets are still available at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum until Monday, Sept 3. Cost is \$20 per person.

A buffet dinner featuring traditional Chinese dishes is planned but those attending can order a Hamburger plate or a Vegetarian meal.

Tickets can be purchased at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum or call Mike Esposito, 614-370-1631.

Does anyone have an old photograph of the Kingston School? If so, please stop by the museum.

# Woolery Coonrod Pioneer

From Page 1

After Jackson Township was established in 1815, we begin to see records of the events that shaped Woolery's life.

In *William Foster Breck, Grove City's Founding Father*, by James F. Hale, Woolery Coonrod and Nicholas Hoover are mentioned being chosen to represent Jackson Township as hunters during an 1822 countywide squirrel hunt.

It's clear that Woolery was an accomplished marksman among his peers. Harold Windsor's history series mentions that Woolery was a Justice of the Peace.

**From 1826 to 1834** there are several records of Woolery's service to the township. By this time, Woolery was a respected pillar of the community (by then he may have been a resident of the township longer than any other living person) as evidenced by various legal filings recorded in the records of Jackson Township, Franklin County.

**1826:** Appointed Appraiser of the Estate of Samuel Clark; Named security as to appointment of Mary Postle as guardian of Jane Postle, infant heir of Gabriel Postle. (*It is not clear from the records what it meant to secure the appointment of a guardian to minor children but it is believed to be a personal surety in which an individual, as opposed to an insurance company or corporate entity, guarantees the acts of another person.*)

**1828:** Named Administrator of the Estate of Solomon Kious; Officiated at the wedding ceremonies of John Henry Kious to Eleanor Jordan and of Uriah Jones to Mary Ward as Justice of the Peace.

**1834:** Named security for appointment of Jacob Borrer as guardian of Maria Kious and John Kious; named an appraiser of the estate of William Miller.

It is not known by the author where Woolery Coonrod was buried. Woolery's death brought an end to his personal chapter in the history of the early pioneers of Southwest Franklin County, however, his children continued his legacy as members of the community he helped found.

Catherine Coonrod married Jacob Borrer, son of early settlers Jacob and Magdalene Strader Borrer; they had eight children. The contributions of the Borrer family are well

documented. Catherine Coonrod Borrer died in 1877.

Margaret Coonrod married Solomon Kious who died in 1828; their daughter Maria Kious married Isaac White who was a Justice of the Peace. Margaret Coonrod Kious died in 1850.

Jesse Coonrod died in 1838 at the young age of 25, leaving his wife Martha Budger and the three children that Woolery provided for in his will. Jesse's son George moved to Illinois and has many descendants who bear the surname Conrad.

Mary Coonrod married George W. Haughn, son of John Haughn, Jr., and they had eight children. Mary died in 1857. The Haughn family is also widely cited and documented for their contributions to Grove City and Jackson Township.

Son, James Coonrod, also died at a young age of 31 in 1846. James married A. Baumgartner (possibly Sophia Baumgartner) and they had three children; two daughters, Mary and Catherine, and a son, Henry Woolery Coonrod who was said to have been a longtime resident of Grove City. Henry triumphed over a physical handicap to run a general store and become a well-known resident of the community. He and his wife, Phoebe, had two daughters. Henry W. died in 1927.

Elizabeth Coonrod married Philip Haughn. They had no children but were life-long residents of the township. Elizabeth died in 1890.

Elizabeth Brunnermach Coonrod, in the 1850 U.S. Census, was living with her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and George Haughn (Hann). She passed away in 1855 and is buried in Scioto Cemetery. She, along with the other wives of the pioneers, should be honored for the hardships endured and the contributions made to the history of Grove City and Jackson Township.

Woolery's property was roughly 150 acres that included the bend of the Scioto River on the west side of the Olen Corporation quarry and extended to what is now Pinnacle Woods Drive.

The northern and southern property lines correspond roughly with Pinnacle Club Drive and Holton Road. This is according to the 1842 map of Jackson Township from the Franklin County Historical Atlas published by the Franklin County Genealogical Society. This may or may not have been the original property obtained in 1804.

*Continued on Page 4*

# Society Dinner Party

A Social Event for Members and Friends

**Thursday, Sept. 6, 6-9 p.m.**

\$\$\$\$ This is a Fund Raising Activity \$\$\$\$

Invite Family, Friends and Neighbors

## BUFFET MENU

### General Tso's Chicken

*Stir-fried chunks of white meat chicken, crunchy outside, special hot sauce.*

### Mandarin Pepper Steak

*Beef sautéed with green peppers and onions.*

### Chicken with Broccoli

*Chicken with fresh broccoli and bamboo shoots, Lightly stir-fried.*

### Meal Includes

Egg Roll  
Tea (hot or cold), Coffee  
Ice Cream - Self Serve

+++++

## Cash Bar at Hole in One Lounge

+++++

Looking for optional menu items?

### PRE-ORDER

Hamburger Steak, Fries, Salad  
Vegetarian Meal

## Entertainment

## Door Prizes

## Drawings

## Raffle

55 inch TV



TICKET  
DEADLINE  
IN 11  
DAYS

YES, I plan to attend  Member  Friend

**Please register by Friday, Aug. 31**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY \_\_\_\_\_

### OPTIONAL MENU REQUESTS:

Hamburger steak, fries, salad    How Many \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetarian meal    How Many \_\_\_\_\_

**Tickets \$20 each person**

Please mail check to:

SWFCS Banquet

3378-B Park St., Grove City, OH 43123

# Woolery Coonrod Pioneer

From Page 2

According to the Atlas, Coonrod (actually, it notes that the property is owned by his heirs, since he died in 1839) also owned an adjacent property of about 10 acres and an isosceles triangle shaped piece of land, in the center of the township that was also about 10 acres in size. There does not appear to be a known location of the Coonrod homestead.

Aerial photographs of the property possibly may offer clues but the actual location appears to be lost.

Perhaps a skilled examination of the property or an undiscovered record could identify where Woolery's house was erected. It is almost certain that it was near either the river or the creek that ran along the northern line of the property.

Two later maps of Jackson Township (1856 and 1883) from the Franklin County Historical Atlas show how the property changed hands over the years subsequent to the passing of Woolery and Elizabeth.

The 1856 map shows the entire property was owned by Daniel Moler. By 1883 the property had been divided into five parcels, mostly owned by Isiah and John Breckenridge.

The current view of the property map from the Franklin County Auditor's Office website now shows 29 pieces of residential property, accessible from Holton Road and Route 104, and land to the west of Rt. 104 as part of the Scioto Grove Metro Park.

**The forest land** near the Scioto River remains undeveloped and is probably much the same now as it was when Woolery Coonrod and his family first settled on the river's bank.

*Additional information about the Coonrod family is available at the Grove City Public Library.*

## Do you have pictures?

The historical society is looking for photographs that showcase Grove City and Jackson Township. The pictures can be of identified individuals, businesses, houses, landscape or anything else.

*We can scan your picture and return it on the spot.*

**Grove City Welcome Center and Museum**  
3378 Park St. 614-277-3061



*When visiting Century Village during Old Time Harvest Day, take a few extra minutes and read the plaques on the buildings.*

## Old Time Harvest Day Oct. 7 At 'The Village'

Celebrate the autumn traditions and fellowship of an agricultural community in mid-19th-century Ohio from 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Old-Time Harvest Day at Century Village in Fryer Park, 4185 Orders Road.

For most of Ohio's history, the fall harvest featured neighbors working together to reap the fruits of the growing season and prepare for the winter ahead.

The Southwest Franklin County Historical Society and the City of Grove City provide an opportunity for families to connect with their community's past. The celebration shares our past through storytelling and activities to honor 150 years of proud history.

Enjoy a living history experience with a variety of hands-on activities including old-time games, traditional crafts such as leather tooling and rope weaving, and daily chores like churning butter and pumping well water.

Take a wagon ride through Century Village, mingle with costumed re-enactors, listen to period music and observe traditional cooking practices.

View restored or reconstructed historical buildings including a one-room schoolhouse, log cabin, general store and barns. Visit the village herb garden, windmill and antique equipment.

Stop in the blacksmith shop to watch a metalworking demonstration on a traditional forge. Grove City Parks and Recreation Department regularly offers blacksmithing classes.

*See Page 5*

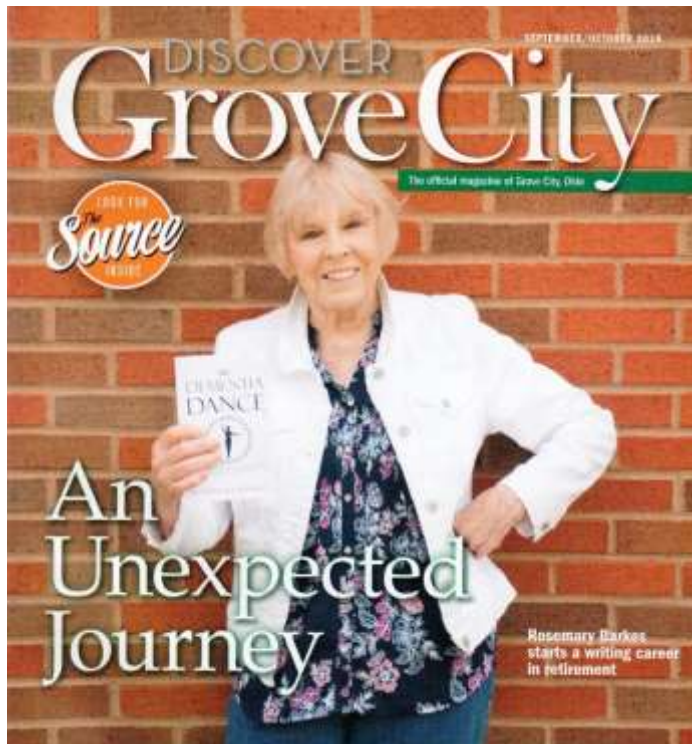


# Old Time Harvest Day

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Attendance and parking are free, donations of non-perishable food items for the Grove City Food Pantry will be accepted at this rain-or-shine event.

This event is presented by the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society and the City of Grove City.



The second edition of Grove City's new magazine is out with a story on pages 14-15 about the memories of six local residents. Those interviewed included Barbara Howison, George Haughn, Leroy Geyer, Pauline Farnsworth, William England and Bill Lotz.

## How Often Do Your Read?

How often do you read the **Southwest PIONEER** and **The Society Monthly**?

Do the Society's two newsletters offer articles and pictures of interest to you? What other type of articles would you like to see?

Are you satisfied with the current stories and pictures being offered? This is your chance to speak up and help us either maintain the current type of stories to venture in to new areas. Respond to [grovecityhistory@gmail.com](mailto:grovecityhistory@gmail.com) or mail a note to Readers Survey, 3378-B Park St., Grove City, OH 43123.

## Wood Slabs, Sawdust Repaired Galloway Roads

The early roads in the Galloway area could hardly accommodate travelers. The ruts and holes were frequently filled with sawdust and wood slabs from the local sawmill.

According to an article by George Lavelly in Reflections II, sawdust was layered over wood slabs creating a smooth surface for travelers. That road eventually intersected with the old National Trail (US Rt. 40).

In the mid-1800s, it took nearly three hours to travel from Galloway to the National Trail.

People were living in the Galloway area as early as 1852, the same year Grove City was platted as a settlement. Land there was selling for \$1 an acre.

Two of the earlier settlers, Roseline Smith and Samuel Galloway, wanted a town that could accommodate the needs of farmers in that far west area of Franklin County.

The rest of this story can be read online at [www.grovecityohhistory.org](http://www.grovecityohhistory.org). Click on EVENTS then *In the News*. The printed version of Reflections II is available at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum for \$10.



Anyone remember Culp Heating and Cooling in the Town Center? The downtown has had many changes over the years. McClure Hair Cutting is just to the left of Culp Heating and Sharp and Son Auction is to the right. The auction house, which was also a furniture store for many years, is one of the longest lasting businesses in the downtown area other than Planks on Broadway. If you have any old photographs of the Town Center, let the Society scan your picture at the museum, then return it the same day.

# Arts In Alley Festival Planned Sept. 15-16

The annual Arts in the Alley festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15-16 in the Grove City Town Center.

Hosted by the Grove City Area Chamber of Commerce, more than 100 juried exhibitors display and sell fine art, photography, jewelry, crafts, fabric art, glasswork, pottery and wood creations.

A variety of musical entertainment is planned as well.

The annual parade will kick off on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. from Southwest Boulevard moving south on Broadway to Columbus Street then east on Columbus to St. John's Lutheran Church.

## Last Century Village Tour Scheduled For Sept. 22

Spread the word that the final free tour this year of Century Village will be held Saturday, Sept. 22, from 2-4 p.m.

The village is open the fourth Saturday of each month, May through September.

For more information, contact Steve Jackson, 614-871-0081.

## Last Minute Briefs

### Grant-Sawyer Tours

Interested in a tour of the Grant-Sawyer house? Get a group of no more than 10 and schedule a guided tour. Call the museum for more information. The number is 614-277-3061.



### Who Is She?

Do you remember this face? We realize the picture is not as good as it should be but that is Hester Haenszel, a social writer for the Grove City Record for more than 50 years.

### More About Dinner Party

Those attending will have an opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket for a 55 inch television. Table centerpieces will also be gift items. Come find out what else is planned. See page 3 for more information. Cash or check only. Be sure to bring money for a tip.



## Southwest Pioneer

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Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

A 501C3 NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

3378-B Park St., Grove City, OH 43123

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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 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	Commission, City Hall, 8:30 am
1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> 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