



SOUTHWEST PIONEER

JUNE 2021

Newsletter Only Available Online

SOUTHWEST FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3378-B PARK ST., GROVE CITY, OHIO 43123

Society President 1990-2004

Marilyn Gibboney Served Community

Marilyn Louise Gibboney died April 28 this year after serving many offices within the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society.

She was instrumental in the early preservation efforts for the Gantz farmhouse in the 1980's which led to her being a charter member of the historical society



A graduate of Grove City High School and Capital University, she taught school in Xenia and South-Western City School.

Marilyn served two years as Society vice president before serving as president from 1990 until 2004. She also published

the Society's newsletter.

She was responsible for two of the Society's earliest publication known as Reflections. She also authored a photo history column *Pictorial Past* in the *Grove City Record*.

She was Grove City's first city historian and was recognized with a proclamation in 2004 recognizing her work.

Local Telephone Service

Today we take cell phones and wireless service for granted but there was a time that there was only a single wire between Grove City and Columbus.

The telephone switchboard was installed by Edward F. Darnell in 1896 in the Buckholz Building in Grove City's downtown.

A. G. Grant made the first long distance phone call from Grove City speaking to a party in St. Louis. The call cost him \$4.50, a sizeable sum back then.

HIGHLAND MISSION

BIRTHPLACE OF
CHURCHES

Adapted from a story written by the late Rev. John Gray, former pastor at Jackson Chapel United Methodist Church.

After worshipping in the Highland Road Mission for a few years, the three earliest denominations began to erect their own buildings including the German Lutherans in 1853, the Presbyterians in 1856, and the Methodists in 1859.

The erection of the denominational churches occurred partly because of a dispute among the Lutherans as to which language should be used to celebrate the Eucharist.

Church histories tell us after worshipping together for a few years, the Lutherans were split over English or German.

These latter English-speaking Lutherans eventually decided to become members of the Presbyterian Church. Daniel and Mary Smith were the agents who signed the deed establishing the Highland Road Meeting House in 1846.

They were from Germantown, PA where their records of baptism and membership are found at St. Michael's Lutheran Seminary.

The first religious services in the Grove City community were conducted by the Reverend R.K. Davis, a Presbyterian minister who came here with William Foster Breck, the village founder, in 1846.

Davis was ordained as a Presbyterian. He started out as a non-denominational minister because at that time there were no separate denominations in this area.

The Lutherans were the first to erect their own building in 1853; the second to go up was for the Presbyterians in 1856 and the third was the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1859.

Rocket Explodes On Georgesville Rd.

In May, 1968, a rocket with U.S. Air Force markings landed on the John Reinhard farm on Georgesville Road, according to a story in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

Mrs. Reinhard told the *Columbus Dispatch* that it “sounded like” a dynamite explosion when it landed in the oat field behind their home.

The military sent a demolition team to investigate but it was determined the rocket was a homemade device.

The 12-inch projectile was made of tin cans, propelled by matchheads and an unknown solid fuel.

It bore an Air Force insignia apparently taken from a model airplane kit. A camera was attached but there was no film in the camera.

Russian ‘Quartette’ Show In Grove City, June 1917

An event held in Grove City in 1917 has been practically lost in history. It was called a Community Chautauqua. P. N. Windsor and H. G. Grossman of Grove City introduced the event.

The programs included entertainment and culture including numerous speakers, a concert band, a trio playing a harp, violin and clarinet, a six-piece all female band and the Imperial Russian ‘Quartette’.

Development of the Chautauqua program would not have been possible without the railroads. Organizers relied heavily on rail lines to reach into rural communities.

The local sponsors, as best as can be determined, included Charles White, O. H. Corzilius, Otto Willert, M. Johnston, P. N. Windsor, H. G. Grossman and D. C. Lawless.



These classic cars were part of a parade back in the 1950s. Anyone notice the price of gasoline? The 59 cent gasoline would be unheard of today.

Looking for Books on History?

There is a wide variety available at the
Grove City Welcome Center
and Museum

Ben Franklin Store Opened In Grove City Downtown

That was a headline in the Grove City Record back in 1938. At the time, it was the largest new store in the Grove City downtown.

The store opened on April 3 in a newly remodeled storefront that once housed the Rolla White Dry Goods Store.

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Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

A 501C3 NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

SOCIETY OFFICERS

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John Hines, Vice President	614-364-6692
Trudie Gardner, Secretary	614-879-7416
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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual Member	\$15	Annual Student	\$1
Annual Business	\$50	Life Member	\$150

**Why not join Grove City's
search for local history?**