



# SOUTHWEST PIONEER

MARCH 2022

Newsletter Only Available Online

SOUTHWEST FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

## Two New History Booklets Available

The Society anticipates having two new booklets available sometime this month. They will be offered for sale at the museum and at the Visit Grove City office, 3995 Broadway.

One is a 28-page booklet entitled *Early Schools in Southwest Franklin County from 1815*. It can be considered as a companion to the reprinted and updated *Epoch of the Park Street School* which is also now available in print.

*Early Schools* deals with township schools and the establishment of the Grove City school system. The first school in Jackson Township opened in 1815 but a school was organized in 1811 called Darby Cross Roads, later Harrisburgh then in 1893 it became Harrisburg.

The other booklet, *The Old Mills*, discusses how water wheels powered the grist mills and the earliest sawmills. Samuel Dyer built the first grist mill at the forks of Little Darby and Big Darby Creeks in 1805.

William Foster Breck operated the first steam powered gristmill in 1852, the same year Grove City was platted as a village.

Both books contain a narrative and photographs. They are \$10 each.

## Ardit Was First 'Official' Person To Drive On Columbus Street

Louis Ardit, 101, was honored to be the



first official person to drive the new Columbus Street extension, a portion of which was once called Mill Street. The original dirt road ran from Broadway to the two mills operated by William Breck.



Grove City 100<sup>th</sup> birthday parade in 1966

## Historical Society Marks 40<sup>th</sup> Year In Community

Forty years ago on Oct. 7, 1982, the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society was born and today it has 154 annual and life members.

The idea to create a permanent historical society came about during a chance meeting between Earl Nicholson and Bill and Barbara Howison at the Grove City Public Library that was once located on Park Street.

The first officers included Dick Riester, president; Barbara Howison, secretary; and Herman Grossman, treasurer.

There were 27 charter members including: Bill Buckley, Audrey Cox, Richard Davis, Bill and Marlyn England, Wilbur Gantz, Marilyn Gibboney, Betty and Herman Grossman and John Hampson.

Also, Wilma Jean Marcum, Barbara and Bill Howison, Alfred Jackson, Steve Jackson, Christine Jenkins, Pat Muzyka, Earl Nicholson, Jack Peitsmeyer, Byron Rader, Hulda Rader, Dick Riester, Meg Scott, Judy Suttles, Marie Thompson, and Hank White.



*This framed \$1,000 dollar bill was one of the items sold at auction when the estate of Ruth Jividen was settled which was believed to be only one of only 150 in circulation. The bills were first issued in 1861 and withdrawn from circulation by President Nixon in 1969.*



*Murry Mercier's Amplifier Service based in Grove City. Photo provided by John Garner.*

## **Mercier Lab Continues To Evade Local History**

The former Mercier property at Home and Hoover Road still eludes history. There are many stories about the property but few facts.

It was once an important weather station in Franklin County and during the Cold War era, it may have been the headquarters for the county's Civil Defense program.

Unconfirmed stories claim the Mercier barn was where motorcycles were tested for the U. S. Army during World War II. Military guards were stationed at the property when the Mercier's worked on government projects for North American Aviation.

## **Horses, Blacksmiths Were Important To Grove City**

*This story, written by Jane Schmitz, first appeared in the Grove City Record during the bicentennial celebration that was held in 1976.*

Years before anyone had ever heard of the automobile in Grove City, the horse was the only source of transportation.

Placing a horse before the cart was a common practice of early Grove City villagers and often sturdy rigs and steeds could be seen hitched to posts located in front of many local businesses.

In addition, traffic laws then applied to horses. In 1871, the town's council passed an ordinance declaring that "a fine of 25 cents minimum and \$2 maximum would be imposed on those violators who galloped a horse, mare or gelding, on any Grove City Street."

Because the horse played such an important role in the community, serving both its transportation and farming needs, many horse-related businesses came into operation. Numerous harness and saddle shops, blacksmiths, wagon makers and livery stables were located in and around Grove City.

As early as 1855, the village blacksmith was an important occupation. The town had one tavern, one physician and three churches. A man by the name of Brigham Young operated a blacksmith shop. *Continued on Page 3*



*Loveland Castle*

## **Ohio Home To Many Old Castles**

The Piatt Castles in Logan County are probably the best known but did you know about the Loveland Castle on the Little Miami River near Cincinnati. There are nine castles in Ohio. Learn more about the Loveland at [www.ohiotraveler.com](http://www.ohiotraveler.com)





Frank Smith seated, Coast Berry standing. Photo taken on Broadway at Park Street

## Horses, Blacksmiths Were Important To Grove City

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Early blacksmith, Fred Hensel and Son, operated a shop on the corner of Grove City Road and Broadway.

George Stroeder had a combined wagon and smith shop on the corner of Broadway and Columbus Street, and blacksmith Adolph Bauschauer built his business on Columbus Street around 1890.

The manufacture and sale of buggies, surreys, spring wagons, saddles and harnesses was another prevalent business. Edward Courtwright of Galloway, a dealer in horse supplies, claimed in an 1897 advertisement that he served his customers “by meeting everybody on the square and applying the Golden Rule to every deal.”

Another Carriage maker, J. J. Brown of Pleasant Corners, manufactured buggies which were known for their reliable construction, fine workmanship and five-year guarantee.

Other proprietors of horse supply shops and harness makers were E. A. White, George Arnold and Charles Witzgal.

## Cornerstone At Museum From Galloway School

The 1916 cornerstone, once stored at the Grove City railroad depot when it was in the Town Center, is from the Galloway School. It was identified through efforts of Janet Shailer and Karen Lane. Karen discovered the names of the school board members engraved on the cornerstone in a library document.

**A NEW METHOD OF TAKING COD-LIVER OIL.**

**C**OD-LIVER OIL has attained a world-wide reputation, and is used by the medical profession in cases of Consumption, Eruptions, Emaciation and Pulmonary complaints, etc. It can be taken quite pleasantly, without taste or smell, in Capsuloids. Each capsuloid contains half a large teaspoonful of pure Cod-Liver Oil. They are put up in precisely the same manner and at the same price as the Castor Oil Capsuloids. *See opposite page.*

**From Miss Esther B. Ely, 29 East 29th Street, New York, April 6th, 1880:** “I have tried to take Cod-Liver Oil in every form, my physician having prescribed it, but could never retain it in my stomach. Your large Capsules or ‘Capsuloids’ were tried, and they worked like a charm, experiencing no nausea whatever.”

**From Miss E. Torrey, Grand Union Hotel, New York, April 5th, 1880:** “The Capsuloids sent me are just what is needed by all who are nauseated by taking Cod-Liver Oil. I don’t see how anybody who has used these admirable, large, tasteless Capsules or Capsuloids can ever take this medicine again in any other way.”

## Indian Mound Preserved At Indian Trails Area

The only remaining Indian mound in the Grove City area was saved in 1990 when the Woodfield Oaks subdivision was developed by the Bettin Family of Chillicothe.

The mound is on Clayton Court. The Bettin family sought assistance from the Ohio Historical Society and they credit Chuck Boso and Bill Lotz for playing an instrumental role in making the development plan work for the good of preserving history.

Speculation is that the mound was either Hopewell or Adena culture.



Let's hope this scene doesn't repeat any more this year. Most of us are ready for spring but how many are looking forward to the switch to daylight savings time March 13.



The Beulah Park historical marker now has a permanent home along Columbus Street. It was temporarily moved from Beulah Park and stored at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum during construction. Scott Fulton was the driving force behind the marker in 2010; it was dedicated on Oct. 29, 2011.



## Best Kept Secret At Museum

One of the best kept secrets at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum is the Society's genealogy program. It's available to the general public and contains stories, articles, family histories and photographs on hundreds of families.



## Facebook Notice

Do you follow the Society's posts on Facebook? If not, check it out and pass the word. You can go to [www.facebook.com/SWFCHS/](http://www.facebook.com/SWFCHS/) or go to the Society's website at [www.grovecityohhistory.org](http://www.grovecityohhistory.org) and click on the "f" at the very top of the page. Join in and **LIKE** our page and **SHARE** posts with your Facebook friends.



## School Monument Planned

The Society is raising funds to create a black granite monument in memory of the two original stand-alone Grove City High School buildings that once stood at 3253 Park Street.

The site selected is in Grove City's Sesquicentennial Park. Hannigan's Memorial of Grove City has designed the monument.

The front facing Park Street will have an embossed image of the 1928-1970 building and the back will have an image of the 1910-1928 building that later served as Jackson Junior High. Both buildings were torn down in 2000.

Those wishing to donate should make checks payable to SWFCHS, 3378-B Park St., Grove City, OH 43123. Designate "GCHS monument" in the memo line.

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Southwest Franklin County Historical Society  
A 501C3 NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

### SOCIETY OFFICERS

Steve Jackson, President 614-871-0081  
John Hines, Vice President 614-364-6692

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

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