



SOUTHWEST PIONEER

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Newsletter Only Available Online

SOUTHWEST FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Park Street Mentioned First Time In 1872

Park Street didn't exist 170 years ago. The first mention of that name appears on an 1872 map. When Grove City was created in 1852 by William Foster Breck, Park Street was known as School Street because of a log school house on the northside of the street near present-day Arbutus Avenue.

Breck, a businessman from Fairfield County, had scouted Jackson Township as early as 1846. He had a vision to create a new town on the outskirts of Columbus. The population of Jackson Township in the 1850s had about 1,500 residents but no one lived in the area that would become Grove City.

In 1847, Breck and his wife, Elizabeth Smith, purchased 273 acres for \$7 an acre from her father, Deacon John Smith. Breck set aside 15¼ acres for his new town. Just a year later, construction began in 1848 on the Columbus and Harrisburg Turnpike (now Broadway).

Breck, or his father-in-law, might have had prior knowledge about the route for a plank toll road turnpike between Columbus and Harrisburg. If so, that might have influenced the future site for Grove City.

Within four years, Breck and others created a plat in 1852 with three named streets running east of Broadway. Those early roads included School Street (Park), Broad Street (Broadway), and Church Street (Columbus). School Street extended east to a fence line near present-day Centennial Park, just west of the present Park Street Middle School.

Breck apparently didn't envision businesses on the west side of Broadway or see a need to extend School Street to the west. He owned a large tract of land, according to an 1856

map, on the west side of Broadway which he farmed. *Continued on Page 2*



Old Maps Provide Glance Into Forgotten History

It's amazing what can be uncovered by examining an old map. Earl Nicholson, a local historian, may have been the first person to notice a Lutheran Church was once located on Park Street (blue arrow).

That church was described by Nicholson as an English-speaking congregation located four lots east of the old Park Street School which sat at the Arbutus Avenue intersection.

In the lower map, look at the site where the present St. John Lutheran Church now sits (red arrow). That was once where the German Lutheran Cemetery was located. *See Page 2*

Old Maps, continued from Page 1

Sometime around 1860, the St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery was created and graves were moved to an area within the Grove City Cemetery on Grove City Road.

The original German speaking Lutheran church sat on the northwest corner of Columbus Street at Arbutus. That building (yellow arrow) still stands today. Picture right.

Look at the second map. Just west of the cemetery on Columbus Street there is a notation "SH" which usually indicates on old maps that a schoolhouse on that lot.



Sharon Downs Honored By Local Rotary Club

Sharon Thomas Downs is being honored by the Grove City Rotary Club for her leadership and volunteer efforts in Grove City. A plaque will be mounted on the northside of the municipal building wall that outlines here local accomplishments.



Sharon should be remembered for her award-winning floats the Grove City Arts in the Alley Parade and the initial efforts to revive the Grove City downtown.

She was also a lifelong member of the Community Club and the organizer for the Christmas Tree Gala. She is still involved as a supporter of Buddy Ball at Windsor Park.

Quinichett Remembered As Local Football Anchor

Jack Quinichett and Doug Wilhelm are remembered today as the men who organized the Black Knights football organization.

Quinichett in 1959 first created the Urbancrest Marauders basketball team and later he organized the Blue Stars football team in the community. Former local resident and NFL player Gary Burley said he learned "commitment and dedication" from Quinichett, his first coach.



Park Street Mentioned First Time In 1872

Continued from Page 1

The following is a chronological history of Park Street east and west of Broadway.

1853: The first school in Grove City was built on Park Street near Arbutus. It was a primitive log and slab board building. A second plank building opened in 1870 and, for a time, it was complete with modern conveniences which meant it had two outhouses, one for boys and another for girls. The Grove City Special School District opened a four-room brick building that became known as the Park Street School in 1888. An additional two rooms were added to that building in 1903. The second school building was sold and its lumber used to build two private residences at Park and Arbutus.

1856: There are two different maps with that date. One incorrectly identifies Broad Street (Broadway) as Columbus Street. Another map dated 1856 pinpointed the Village of Grove City on the westside of Broadway instead of the eastside.

1859: Research by the late Rev. John Gray indicates a Methodist Episcopal Church moved into a building on West Park Street around 1859-1860. Twenty-five years later, a Cincinnati, Midland City and Columbus Railroad construction crew was laying track through Grove City. As a result, trains often spooked horses and disturbed worship services.

1860s: Near the end of the Civil War, Breck began construction of a 20-room house at the northwest corner of Broadway and School Street. He intended for the house to be not only his residence but also a hotel. Breck said there was a need for a "large and commodious public house" in the village as early as 1852.

1864: Breck, 59, died in a freak accident Aug. 8, 1864 while loading a wagon. A passing horseback rider yelled saying Abraham Lincoln had just been nominated for a second term. Breck, a Republican, yelled so loud he spooked his horses, fell between the horses and wagon and a wheel ran over his neck and chest. He lived about 45 minutes after the accident. After his death, Elizabeth advertised and sold the as yet unfinished house on Park and Broadway and also sold all remaining village lots. John Malott purchased most of Breck's holdings. The Breck home existed about 70 years before it was torn down in 1922. It had served as the Woodland Hotel and as a home for aged women.

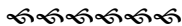
1866: Grove City became a chartered village in 1866 and Park Street was still known as School Street. Early maps show the old stagecoach hotel and saloon on the northeast corner, a general store on the southwest corner and another store at the southeast side of School Street and Broadway. The Mallott family lived in the house Breck built at the northwest corner of Broadway and School Street.

1870: Prior to 1872, School Street became Park Street. It sliced through John Mallott's property that once belonged to Breck. It was the only named street in running west of Broadway.



Resident Help Requested To Identify Communities

An effort is underway to identify names of communities and where they were once located in the townships that make up Southwest Franklin County. The postmark shows the postmark for ZUBER dated 1894. Is this a former post office in Jackson Township? If you have information about any settlement lost in time, please email jhale45@gmail.com.



1870: Development on the west side was slow, most likely because of a large drainage ditch that ran parallel to the west side of Broadway.

1872: According to research by Historian Earl Nicholson, an English-speaking Lutheran Church was located on the northside of School Street between Third Street and Dudley Avenue. The church was located on Lot 27.

1880: Around this time, the Smith family farmed land west of Elm Street and Park Street. They operated a brick factory near Demorest Road in the general area of Breck's Park today. Grove City businesses were still east side of Broadway.

1883: Adam G. Grant began purchasing land west of Broadway in 1883-84. Grant opened the west side of Broadway when he created a large subdivision in 1889. It was called the Beulah Addition, named after a daughter, Beulah Grant Campbell.

1889: A most unusual event occurred in 1889. Grant's property, on the west side of Broadway was in the Town of Beulah That fact is also referenced in a Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Company policy dated 1899. Did Grant intend to create a new town across the street from Grove City? There's little real evidence to support an idea but an old abstract uncovered by Mayor Richard L. "Ike" Stage seems to indicate that might have been a possibility. The abstract covers three tracts of land bounded today on the south by Grove City Road, the north at Grant Avenue and west of Broadway. The last mention of the Town of Beulah was in 1912. An abstract dated 1921 mentioned Grant's Beulah Addition as being within the Village of Grove City. The first two lots on Park Street, in the Town of Beulah, were purchased in 1889 for \$50 each lot.

1889: When Grant was planning his Beulah Addition, he offered a lot at Park and Lincoln Street to the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The original wood plank church at Park and Front was sold to Grant who moved the building just west of Front Street on a double lot he owned. That became the Grant Auditorium and over the years it provided a place for the Methodists to meet and a site for community gatherings. It also served as a theater, site for music recitals, a roller-skating rink, dance hall, and graduation exercises.

1889: Grant sold lots in the Beulah Addition between \$50 and \$200 each. Many of the people who built homes in the new subdivision worked in Columbus and would later ride Grant's Interurban electric streetcar to and from work. That same year, maple trees were planted along Park Street.

1895: The Grove City Special School District received a charter to operate a high school at the Park Street School. Beulah Park was developed by Grant to help sell lots in his Beulah Addition sub-division. The intent was to promote home ownership in Grove City. Beulah Park was a popular destination for tent revival meetings, reunions, speeches, medicine shows, military gatherings, baseball games, family and church picnics; it also had a steam powered merry go round. By 1896, a half-mile track was built and it became a thoroughbred race track in 1923.

1897: Grant and other investors formed the Grove City and Green Lawn Street Railway that operated an Interurban between Grove City and Greenlawn Avenue. The track ran west on Park Street and after the Interurban's final run of the day it was housed overnight near a building once located behind the current municipal building.

1905: As the Beulah Methodist Episcopal Church congregation grew, a new brick church was constructed at Park and Lincoln and it was dedicated in 1905. Today it's the Masonic Lodge.

1908: The local school board rented the Grant Auditorium on Park Street for graduation and commencement services but a dispute broke out between the board and Grant. The board had invited a Presbyterian pastor to pray at the close of the ceremony. Grant felt it was necessary for the graduation ceremonies to end with a "good old Methodist prayer." The school board refused and when they announced plans for a new location, Grant backed down and allowed use of his auditorium.

1910: Late in the fall of 1910, high school classes completed a move from the Park Street School into a newly constructed Jackson High School building that was once located beside Bicentennial Park west of the current Park Street Middle School.

1924: Fry's Horse Transportation, one of the oldest and largest luxury horse transportation companies, had its national headquarters at Park Street at Elm. They operated a fleet of vehicles that transported race horses nationwide.

1973: Frank Sinatra rode into Grove City in a black limo and turned west on Park Street for the opening night of the Capital Music Center at Beulah Park. The summer long venue showcased many headline acts including Tom Jones, Chicago, John Denver and Linda Ronstadt, just to mention a few.

Have Our Views Changed Since Survey In 2017?

Sometimes it's interesting to look back and see how we responded to certain questions five years ago and if the same questions were asked today if the response would be different.

Consider these taken at the June monthly meeting of the Society in 2017.

Should we do more to engage new members, volunteers?

34 Yes
1 No

Would meetings at other locations help reach new members?

24 Yes
8 No

What do you enjoy/like best about a society meeting?

22 History programs
19 Business meeting, Society activity reports
6 Social time with friends.

Should we reach out for new members in other southwest townships?

34 Yes
8 No

What program topics would you enjoy?

35 Grove City history
28 Township history
24 Native Americans; Indian Mounds
17 Guest speaker
15 Canals, Interurban
12 Visual programs
11 National/World History
10 Open discuss on a general topic
9 Agriculture, Farming

I have visited or viewed the:

20 Society Web page
12 Society Facebook page

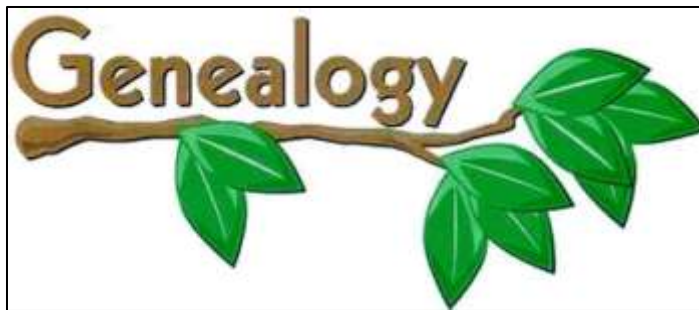
This wasn't the entire list of questions from the survey but it was a general sampling. Have any views changed since then?



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/ or go to the Society's website at

www.grovecityohhistory.org and click on the "f" at the very top of the page. Join in and **LIKE** our page and **SHARE** history our posts with your Facebook friends.



Each Generation Is Responsible For History

Sometimes it's easy to get so involved in community history that family history is placed on a back burner or just overlooked.

Future generations will someday try to find out how people of today lived. Is a family record being preserved for those who come after us? Consider these options:

Voice recording: This is a simple way to record family history. You don't have to do it all at once. Record information as it comes to mind. This can become an ongoing project over years. Also, take time to transcribe the recordings.

Written history: All that is required is pen and paper. It can begin as a diary writing down current family events; have another section for past events and memories. Print when possible and be sure the writing is legible. It's always better to have information typed. If you are not skilled in that area, consider paying someone to transcribe your story from your handwritten notes.

Most of us don't think we have a story to tell until we begin. Family history can be rich and powerful.

Little Pennsylvania Covered Bridge Replaced In 1932

The Little Pennsylvania Bridge over Big Darby Creek at Darbydale was replaced in 1932, according to an article in *The Grove City Record*.

The bridge, also known as the McKinley Covered Bridge, was just one of seven covered bridges in Franklin County at the time.

John B. McKinley said his father donated \$2,500 of land to the county allowing construction of a new road to the entrance of the bridge.

Construction started in April, 1866 and it opened to traffic in December costing \$47,700.

The covered bridge was also known as a place where robbers would hide at night waiting for "cattle dealers and horse traders" who were always known to carry cash.

Anyone Have a Thought, Response

An article that appeared in *The Grove City Record* in 1952 referenced comments by Mrs. Bella Bodle Boucher about two schools in Grove City.

Mrs. Boucher, born in 1867, recalled there were once two schools in Grove City. One was English speaking with classes in the winter months and the other was German speaking with instruction during the summer.

If you have any knowledge or thoughts, please email Jim Hale at jhale45@gmail.com

Childhood Memories When Grove City Was Small Town

By Steven G. Smith

Today it is a thriving city but when I was a small boy of 7 or 8 it was just starting its march to the future. It was still a pretty small town where practically everyone knew everyone else or would at very least recognize the family name.

I could walk or ride my bike anywhere I needed or wanted to go. The main street through downtown was Broadway, a rather ambitious moniker for the reality.

However quaint, it contained everything we needed. In actuality, it was part of the 3-C highway that connects Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati.

Two drugstores were within a block of each other. Wallace's was the larger of the two and where we would go to explain our needs to Santa and collect a small bag of hard candies. It was the candy my grandma always had in a glass candy dish.

Carr's Drug Store was the store I preferred because of its soda fountain where I would drink chocolate Coke's and eat pretzel sticks from the container on the counter.

Next to Carr's was Vaughn's barber shop. It was a single chair shop with two benches for customers to sit and tell each other stories.

Over one was the requisite series of "Dogs Playing Poker." I never understood many of the stories they told or the limericks and ditties that the barber, sang while he cut my hair.

One verse has however been burned into my subconscious for 60 plus years. "You don't ever go swimmin' with bald-headed women." I still wonder why?

On another corner was Bob's Texaco where dad took our 1951 Chevy for service and where I always pulled a nickel coke from the ice filled Coca Cola cooler. Nothing better on a hot summer day.

Across the street was the dry cleaners, bakery, the 5 and 10 store, and Kropp's IGA, where my dad would grocery shop for my grandparents every Saturday morning,

The next block contained Enders Tavern (now a popular restaurant) always referred to by my grandma as "that beer joint" where grandpa might stop after work for a cold Black Label or Weidmann's before going home.

Also on this block was Craig's Store. Not sure, but I seem to remember that his name and the date 1914 were in the brick facade. You could buy about anything there. Once a year we went to Craig's to get new high top "Red Ball Jets". That is where I got my first ball glove.

The old wood floor smelled of age and had weathered thousands of footprints.

Next door was Jerry's Hobby Shop where I usually spent my allowance on model cars. Across the street was a butcher shop. I think the butcher's name was Otto. He once gave me a cow's heart so that I could explain the workings of the heart for a science project.

I could probably explain the mechanics of the heart still, but not the "workings." Grove City was a fine place to grow up.

Popular Carbonated Beverage

Most residents of the area have tasted a Pepsi but how many know its history? In 1893, a pharmacist named Bradham served a carbonated drink he called it Brad's Drink. It originally included pepsin and the cola nut. He later purchased the trade name Pep Cola from a New Jersey firm and in 1902 incorporated his beverage as Pepsi-Cola.

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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

Partners in History

*The Southwest Franklin County Historical Society
and the City of Grove City have worked in partnership
for many years supporting the history of the area.*

Joint Society-City Projects

Century Village at Fryer Park

Spring and Fall Events; Village is Open Saturdays, See Website Schedule

Grove City Welcome Center and Museum

New Museum Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10-4; Saturdays 9-Noon

Grant-Sawyer Home

Tours; See Website for Information

Oral History

Grove City Historical Commission and Society Project



Society Projects

Website – www.grovecityohhistory.org

Facebook – www.facebook.com/SWFCHS/

School Field Trips @ Museum & Village

Local Genealogical Collection

Preparation of History Books, Pamphlets

Annual Report of All Activities

Monthly, Quarterly Newsletters

Historical Research, Documentation

Excursions, Group Trips, Gatherings

Why Not Get Involved?

Email grovecityohhistory@gmail.com

or Call Steve Jackson – 614-871-0081