

THE SOUTHWEST PIONEER

September-December 2023

Southwest Franklin County Historical Society, 3378 Park St., Grove City, OH 43123



On July 28, the Society unveiled the granite 2-sided Jackson Township/Grove City High School monument in Sesquicentennial Park. Pictured are: (from left) Barbara Roberts Howison, Class of 1961; Bob Eesley, Class of 1947; Joan Taylor Eyerman, Class of 1955; and Ruth Sheets Osborne, Class of 1955. Additional picture on page 3.

Opal Martino Once Lived In Tuckeyhuddle Community

By Janet Shailer

Opal Wagner Martino, 98, was born in Kinderhook, Ohio in Pickaway County on May 24, 1924. She was the third of seven siblings.

At age 7, her family moved to the Grove City area where her father worked in a foundry and raised livestock. While a student at Jackson Township-Grove City High School, she learned how to sew and became an excellent seamstress. She was so good at sewing that her home economics teacher, Mrs. Koehler, asked her to make blouses for her. After graduating from high school in 1942, she married Maynard Lee Martino.

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Newsletter Resumes As Quarterly Publication

The Southwest Pioneer resumes publication this month on a quarterly basis, according to Steve Jackson, Society president.

The next issue of *The Southwest Pioneer* will be January 2024.

Janet Shailer has agreed to be the editor and will write and edit the publication. Jackson said Jim Hale has agreed to arrange the text into a newsletter format.

All news items and announcement should be sent to:

janetshailer@hotmail.com

Market Day Before 1913 Flood Disaster

(Many Grove City farm families took their goods to Columbus to sell at the old Central Market. They called it "standing at market." The late Marilyn Gibboney was president of the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society for many years. She wrote this article for "The Pioneer" in 1998 about her family.

By Marilyn Gibboney

Tuesday was Market Day and Grandma had prepared all her produce in the usual way to take to her customers in Columbus. The day was March 13, 1913. She took her daughter Clara, aged 15, with her to help carry the heavy baskets. They drove the horse and buggy to Grove City and left them at White's Livery Stable. They took the interurban (trolley car) to Columbus.

The interurban station was located on North Fourth St. and Rich St. From there they carried the market baskets to their stand located on South Fourth St. just south of Main St.

The day started out in the usual manner and the customers came and picked up their orders. Soon the conversation changed to water and the danger of flooding. The customers became more anxious and did not tarry to shop in the area stores. One of Grandma's customers told her if there was a problem getting home, she could come to her house and stay. It did become necessary as that was the day all would remember as the day the DAM BROKE.

People were marooned particularly in the area west of the Scioto River which was the way Grove City people had to travel to get home. Grandma and Clara went to Anne Cavener's house and stayed. Clara was so glad she wore the new calico dress that Grandma had made her. They phoned the folks at home and told them they were safe and where they were staying.

The next day, Grandpa went to Grove City to get the horse and buggy from the livery stable. Before he drove them home, he examined his horse and found he was covered with dried lather. Apparently, he had been driven since Grandma had left him at the livery stable. Also, the beautiful shawl Grandma had left in the buggy was missing.

The following Saturday, Grandpa hired William C. Grossman to drive his automobile to Columbus and bring his women folk home.

They also brought stranded neighbor

Selma Lindig home with them. William Grossman was the only acquaintance of the family that owned an automobile at that time. We don't know where Anna Cavener lived but it was a long way from Grove City. They came home by way of Marble Cliff, and that was a very long trip for those country folks.

The story of that day and week was retold many times by the family in the ensuing years. It became part of family history. The story was told to me by my mother, Anna Iftner, and her mother, Louisa Schlosser, my maternal grandmother.

Opal Martino - Tuckyhuddle

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At first, they lived with her parents in an area along Zuber Rd. near Ridpath Rd. called "Tuckyhuddle" in southern Jackson Township. Later she and Maynard bought a farm in the same area closer to Hoover Rd. She described Tuckyhuddle as 4-5 farm families.

According to information gathered by Mike Boso, Joan Eyerma, and other Franklin



County histories, the Ridpath-Tuckyhuddle community sprang up in southeastern Jackson Township near the Concord Church at London-Groveport and Hoover roads in the 1880s in anticipation of another railroad company coming through the area.

The settlement was named Ridpath but was more commonly called Tuckyhuddle. There is no indication where the name or meaning originated.

According to research by Roland L. (Lum) Edwards, Grove City administrator engineer in the 1970s, the Ohio Southern Railroad started a branch line to Columbus from Portsmouth area after 1881.

Work on the railroad bed progressed north to Grove City but ended in the area between Birch Bark Trail and Stargrass Avenue. Financial difficulties prevented railroad track from being laid at Ridpath. Expecting the area would have a station and freight office, businesses opened including a country store, blacksmith shop and shoe shop. At one point, the settlement even had a post office.

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Opal Martino - Turkeyhuddle

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However, when the possibility of the new rail line collapsed, those Ridpath merchants relocated to Grove City and other parts of Jackson Township. Evidence of the old rail bed is still visible in parts of the area.

In 1884, Jackson Township got its first completed rail line. A construction gang for the Columbus, Cincinnati, and Midland Railroad reached Grove City in March 1884.

Later that year, trains rolled through Jackson Township shipping cattle, hogs, grains, and lumber from the Grove City Freight Station.

Opal Martino, like many of the Turkeyhuddle families, attended worship services at Concord United Methodist Church. Opal raised her sons, Donald Lee and Terry, and did needlework, sewing, crocheting, and embroidery. She also loved to cook.

Opal says her only regret in life is she had always wanted to work at J.C. Penney's but decided to become a homemaker instead.

She and her sister, Jean Wagner Spillman, live in The Ashford of Grove City.



Paul Offenburger, Grove City High School Class of 1940, attended the unveiling of the Jackson Township/Grove City High School monument on July 28. Offenburger, 101, was among the 55 people to attend. Also present were SWCS Board of Education members Anthony Caldwell, Lee Schreiner, and Kelli Martindale; Grove City Councilman Roby Schottke; and Mayor Richard "Ike" Stage. The historical society raised \$14,560 to pay Hannigan's Memorial for the monument. The society is still seeking donations to complete the project.



The Grove City Convention & Visitors Bureau recently partnered with artists David Lane and Cody Woods to create a unique stereo painting called "Game Time" to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Grove City High School Alumni Softball Tournament. The mural, located in Fryer Park, can be seen through a special viewer to give it a three-dimensional look. It is believed to be the world's largest stereoscopic painting. This mural is the first of several historic murals to follow.

SWFCHS Quarterly Schedule

- Sept. 5 Monthly meeting – Evans Center – 7 pm
- Sept. 23 Open House – Century Village – 2– 4 pm
- Oct. 1 Old Time Harvest Day – Century Village noon –4
- Oct. 3 Monthly meeting – Evans Center – 7 pm
- Nov. 7 Monthly meeting – Evans Center – 7 pm
- Dec. 2 Christmas at Grant-Sawyer – noon – 4 pm
- Dec. 5 Monthly meeting – 6:30 pm – pot luck
Location to be announced

Model T Jamboree at Historic Sites

During Labor Day weekend, 100-150 Model T cars will descend upon Grove City for the 2023 All Ohio Model T Jamboree.

On Sunday, Sept. 3, these antique cars will move between three of our historical society sites, Century Village, Museum and the Grant-Sawyer House/Barn.

Volunteers are needed. Contact Bev Babbert if you can help. It will be a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to see these classic cars.

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Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

SOCIETY OFFICERS

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual Member \$15 Annual Student \$1

Catharine Grant and Magdalene Borrer

Pioneer Women of Jackson Township

When the wilderness of Jackson Township was carved out of portions of Franklin and Pleasant townships in 1815, two women of grit and determination were at the forefront of its development. Those two women were Catharine Barr Grant and Magdalene Strader Borrer. These two stoic women led their families and their new community to prosperity in the newly formed state of Ohio.

There is debate about whether Hugh Grant, Sr., a Pittsburgh businessman, traded his Pittsburgh property for his 450-acre homestead in what is now Grove City or whether he purchased it in Ohio's new capital city of Chillicothe. Nevertheless, after traveling from western Pennsylvania by ox cart to Chillicothe the Grant family again loaded their belongings and headed north to an area near present day State Rt. 665 and the Scioto River. (That area is now Scioto Grove Metro Park). Nearby was a stream, and that Scioto River tributary is now called Grant Run.

Only a handful of settlers and frontiersmen lived near the Scioto River at that time. Hugh Sr. set about to build a wooden structure on Grant Run along the Scioto River to shelter Catharine and his five children (Alexander, Jacob, Isabella, Nancy, and Mary). Here they could view any number of canoes, rafts, and flatboats carrying Native Americans, frontiersmen, merchants, and soldiers to various destinations. Among those who frequented the Scioto River was the great Shawnee chief Tecumseh.

The Grant family had not lived there long before a sweet tooth led to Hugh's demise. According to the History of Franklin and Pickaway Counties, written in 1880, Hugh was climbing a tree to cut off a limb containing a beehive full of honey. A limb broke and Hugh Grant, Sr. fell, broke his neck, and died during the winter of 1806-07.

Catharine's life was now full of challenges. She had five children under the age of 15, her husband was dead, and she was a pregnant woman living in a strange land. Her closest relatives lived 190 miles away across a wilderness area. Worst of all, she soon found out she and the children were squatters. They were living on the wrong property.

Catharine Barr Grant had a major dilemma on her hands. Hugh Grant Jr. was born on June 30, 1807 just a few months after his father died. How was Catharine and her six children going to survive? Pioneer women of this era did not have many options. She was staring into a maelstrom.

Through the crude methods landowners had of identifying their land in the new state of Ohio, Catharine had to locate the rightful property that Hugh Grant Sr. purchased and that she now owned. Perhaps she had recognized she needed to settle her husband's estate and sought to have her land transferred in her name. If indeed Catharine began her search for the property between 1807 - 08, Thomas Kirker was the governor of Ohio and Thomas Jefferson was President of the United States.

Magdalene Strader Borrer

Perhaps Catharine was assisted by her new neighbor Magdalene Strader Borrer, whose father Christopher Strader, Sr. purchased 1,600 acres in 1787 in the area that is today St. Rt. 665 and St. Rt. 104 (Jackson Pike). The land was part of an original grant held by Dr. Robert Rose, a surgeon in the Revolutionary War. Magdalene's husband, Jacob Borrer, Jr., was a Revolutionary War veteran who died in Virginia in 1804. But that did not stop Magdalene and her seven children from moving to Jackson Township from Virginia. In 1809, her three eldest sons, Martin, Jacob, and Solomon, moved to Jackson Township and cleared 400 acres of their land. *See next page*

Pioneer Women

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Magdalene and her children Myomi, Christine, Issac, and Absalom followed in 1811.

The Strader and Borrer family enclave became known as Borrer's Corners, the first settlement in Jackson Township. It is located only one or two miles from where the Grant family likely built their first home along the Scioto River.

According to an Ohio Historical Marker erected by the Borrer Reunion Committee and the Ohio Historical Society, the area eventually included several brick homes (some of which still stand), a school, blacksmith shop, and several churches.

A store was also established there where pack horses brought goods from Columbus and Chillicothe.

An Ohio Historical Marker sits on St. Rt. 665 noting this small settlement. It states, "Though never incorporated, Borrer's Corners was shown on early maps and was a focal point for over 100 years in the area," the marker states.

"Most of the residents were farmers, but the community also produced ministers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, scientists, and businessmen who continue to influence the life of central Ohio."

Perhaps Catharine Grant was still living nearby when Magdalene and her family were clearing their land. Magdalene may have assisted her. We might never know.

Nevertheless, Catharine and her children left their rustic cabin near the scenic Scioto River and made the five-mile trip to a dusty path that would become known as Crushed Stone Pike, later Haughn Rd.

It was here that Catharine and her older children built a new wooden structure for them to begin their life without the family patriarch.

Catharine Barr Grant died in 1836 and is buried in Union Methodist Cemetery on Frank Rd. in Franklin Township. Magdalene Strader Borrer is buried in Scioto Cemetery in Borrer's Corners.

Society's Website Has Information For All

Many members may not be aware but old Society newsletters beginning with the March 2016 issue are available and can be read online.

Society newsletters are a great resource. Members are urged to support the content by contacting Janet Shailer, the editor in person or by email.

The Society's office at 3378 Park St. also has an extensive collection of genealogical information. Do you have something to share?



How long has it been since you visited the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum? Stop by and you'll be surprised with its displays.

Events for Your Calendar

Mark your calendars for two upcoming special events. On Sunday, Oct. 1 from noon until 4 p. m, the Society will hold Old Time Harvest Day from noon to 4 p.m.

All buildings will be open. Displays will include rope making, butter churning, 4-H animals, a tinsmith, and children's games. Pork sandwiches will be available for purchase from Watt's Smoking.

On Saturday, Dec. 2 from noon to 4 p.m., a Christmas Open House will be held at the Grant-Sawyer House/Barn.

This would be an ideal time to invite a friend to a Society event.