

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Southwest Pioneer

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Early Downtown Churches of Grove City, Ohio

Highland Road Meeting House

By Rev. John Gray

Pastor, Historian, Genealogist

The main subject of this article has been given various names over the years of its brief existence - The Highland Road Meeting House, Union Meeting House, The Highland Mission House, and Highland Mission.

In addition, at least three denominational churches in Grove City had their beginnings in this old log building including the Lutherans, Presbyterians and Methodists.

In the histories of Franklin County, Ohio and in the histories of the early downtown churches of Grove City (see references) the earliest mention of churches in Jackson Township was 1858.

Earliest Record of Churches

In Martin's 1858 History of Franklin County he writes of two early churches in Jackson Township, and I quote:

"Some 30 years ago (1828) Rev. Benjamin Britton of Norwich Township, used to occasionally preach for the New-Lights in Jackson Township, and the Rev. Chandler Rogers of Perry Township, for the Universalists."

Neither of these two churches, by those names, exists in Jackson Township today. We know that before the 1840's, Methodist and Presbyterian circuit riders were active in the township. The Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church was established in 1796.

The earliest building designed to be used as a church in downtown Grove City, was erected in 1846 and was commonly known as the Highland Road Mission House. The date of the deed transfer for a building that came to be known as Highland Meeting House, is Sept. 5, 1846, and as such represents the earliest date I have seen for a land transaction involving one of the early downtown churches.

The following is a quote from the Grove City Record, July 8, 1932, p. 4:

"The old Highland Mission was the town's first town hall, and as stated before was built by the early settlers of the town on land to the rear of the Carl Willert building on South Broadway. Here the pioneers held their festivals, church, dances and shows, and was the general gathering place for the community. The seats in the building were elevated like a present day grandstand, so that all might have a clear view at the gatherings. After this old log meeting house had served its purpose and new (church) buildings were built, the old building was deserted and A.G. Grant later transformed it into a barn. Continued next page



BORROR'S CORNER—The Borror family reunion will be held in Grove City next year. This photo provided by the Grove City Public Library.

Read about the old
Harrisburg Roller Mill

Page 4

Highland Mission House

Continued from page 1

"The Order of Good Templars has the distinction of being the first fraternal society in Grove City. They had their meeting place in the old Highland Mission house at the lodge's first inception, about 1855, and later moved to the second floor of the old Grant Building, now the Carl Willert Building on South Broadway."

All of the published histories and articles written over the years say the Highland Road Mission Church was erected in 1846 and lasted but a few short years.

According to a land abstract, Deed Book 74, p. 612 -on Nov. 16, 1862, trustees John Hobil, Hugh Grant and George H. Allen, for \$1 issued a quit-claim deed to Gabriel Diemer with the notation that this structure is *'still unsuitable for use as such as a public place of worship and has long since discontinued.'* This was the deed abstract that got Jim Hale and me interested in the old meeting house, eventually leading me to the papers and documents listed below:

References: Credit for much of this article needs to be extended to the following local historians who wrote of the old meeting house over the years:

- History of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1974
- Arthur W. 'Bob' Broffard & Sheila Stage
- History of First Presbyterian Church, Grove City 1858-1997
- Edwin Smith and Glenn Smith (brothers)
- Joyce Davis, Miriam Todd, Dick Davis, Glenn Smith, Juanita Scoles, John Laderer, Pat Laderer, Todd Miller and Nita Hughes. These nine people comprised the committee that published the Presbyterian church history in 1997.
- History of Grove City United Methodist Church (undated)
- Merle Breckenridge, Mrs. Cassie Brink and Miss H. Kathleen White
- Local historians: Marilyn Gibboney, Bill and Barbara Howison, Edna Mark Milligan and Emory Norris,
- Bethanne Johnson. Reference Librarian, Southwest Franklin County Public Library, Grove City, OH
- James Hale, Grove City Visitor's Center
- History of Franklin and Pickaway Counties, OH by Williams Bros., 1796; reprint 1880 - Jackson Township., Franklin County, OH
- History of Franklin Co., OH by William T. Martin, 1858, Columbus, Follett, Foster & Co.
- 'Highland Mission' a transcription of the deed - Gabriel Diemer and wife to Daniel Smith and wife, et al, Sept. 5, 1846. This is the founding document for the original property as found in Land Abstract, Survey 1383, Virginia Military District, Jackson Township, Grove City, Franklin County, OH, Lot #10, Plat A, A.G. Grant. This document mentions 'Highland Road Meeting House -- a place of public worship.'
- 'The Highland Mission - Grove's City's First Church. 'Published by the Grove City Record, 1932
- 'History of Grove City' 1952; compiled by Emory Norris and Edna Mark Milligan
- 'Methodism in the Ohio Area 1812-1962,' by John M. Versteeg, 1962, published by Ohio Area Sesquicentennial Committee

This article to be continued in the next issue of The Pioneer.

Two Additional Log Buildings Finished At Century Village; Stop On 2010 Home Tour

By Joan and Louie Eyerman
Society Members

As 2010 comes to a close, Century Village has two new buildings.

The Bob Evans barn looks great. One can't miss it as you drive by on Orders Road. We need to put in a hay mow to close up the building in the center.

We also need to close up the spaces between the rafters on the back of the barn to keep the birds out before we try to display farm items there.

The other new building is the Haines-Black house, which was moved from the Black farm on Borrer Road.

Temporary Roof for Winter

It is under temporary roof and is closed up for the winter. A shingle roof will be put on in the spring. There are many projects that need to be done to complete it. A sampling includes windows, front and back porches, dobbing between the logs, a brick fireplace and chimney, downstairs flooring.

Volunteers have really been busy and anyone who is willing to help with the project is encouraged to take part. The City has purchased soil and graded around both of the buildings.

Christmas Home Tour

The village was open for the Grove City Christmas Home Tour again this year from 3-8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4. Visitors sampled the wassail served in the Kegg-Keintz log house while they visited.

The coolest day in the month was Oct. 3, the day of the Old Time Harvest Day. In spite of rain, wind and cold, over 600 people attended.



Looking ahead to 2011, we hope to build a blacksmith shop at Century Village to remember those in the past who provided this much needed service to our community.

**Have You Paid Your
2011 Society Dues?**

Welcome Center, Museum Open For Mistletoe Market

The Grove City Welcome Center and Museum, 3378 Park St., was open during Mistletoe Market, Dec. 3, from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. and Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. Hundreds of people visited the Welcome Center.

Society volunteers, organized by Ann Reynolds, greeted visitors.

The building was filled with holiday décor and toys from Christmas' past.

A historic photo memory tree was new this year along with a OSU tree, cowboy and children around the world theme trees and numerous other special trees. Trains were popular again this year under the tree.

The Grove City Area Visitors and Convention Bureau sponsored a *Count the Christmas Trees Contest*. The contest was open to adults and children. Participants had to count all of the trees in the building, including the small trees in displays. Each entry within 10 of the 61 total trees were entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate.

The winner was notified by telephone and posted on the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum Facebook page.

Welcome New Members

The Society would like to welcome new members: Andrew Furr, Zachary Frost, Catherine Baumgartner, Trudie Gardner, Richard O. Sommer, Barbara Sheets, Jeannine Watkins, Robert Traphagan, Kathy Stevenson and Teresa Gulick.

Peggy Ginnings and Jacquelyn Miller are new life members.

Info search!

Linda Keenan, a Grove City area resident, is interested in how Hiner Road got its name. She said she visited the Scioto Cemetery on Hiner but couldn't find anyone by the name Hiner buried there. The most common names in the cemetery were Haughn and Borrer. If you can shed light on this question, please call Jim Hale at 539-8747.

Recruit A New Member!

Did You Know?

Did you know . . . Haughn Road was originally known as Stone Pike? The Grove City street we now know as Independence Way was once known as Wolf Ridge because of the large number of wolves that roamed the area.

Did you know . . . Grove City and Urbancrest were nearly the same size in land in 1909 according to a Rand McNally pocket map of Franklin County?

Did you know . . . The Standard Oil Station where Graeters Ice Cream is today sold gasoline under the brand name Red Crown?

Did you know . . . Memorial Day (Decoration Day) in the late 1860's was a time families from both the North and South remembered their Civil War dead? Veterans Day (Armistice Day) recognized the soldiers who fought and survived World War I. In the early 1900's, Memorial Day became a time families gathered at cemeteries to remember both family and military members. After World War I, Memorial Day was expanded to honor all military dead.



World War I veterans march in a parade in downtown Grove City in 1950.

Story Ideas!

If you have a story idea you would like to see in an upcoming issue of the Southwest Pioneer please E-mail your suggestion to Jim Hale at jhale45@gmail.com or call 539-8747. If you have background information and photos please stop at the Welcome Center and Museum.



Splendid Brand

Harrisburg Mill Provided Flour

There were several grain mills in early Southwest Franklin County but it is likely one of the most popular flour brands was the Harrisburg Roller Mills located at Harrisburg near Orient, Ohio.

The photo at right, taken in the mid 1970's of an old mill near Orient, was included in a *Southwest Pioneer* newsletter article seeking information about its history. Marilyn Gibbone searched through her files and found a copy of the mill that appeared in the *Our Pictorial Past* column in the *Southwest Messenger* by Cread Lawless.



The actual photograph showing wording on the side of the building was provided by Marvin Chaffin of Harrisburg.

According to the article, Alf Eesley was the

first owner of the Harrisburg Roller Mills.

The Key family ran the old mill for Chaffin. Dennis Geddes was the next owner of the business and he lived in a house just across the road from the mill. It is generally believed that W. W. Coontz purchased the mill from Geddes.

The mill produced two different flours. Apparently by position on the building, the primary line might have been known as Splendid but by wording on an actual photo of the flour sack, the other product line, Glad Tidings, had a slogan that it was "The Flour The Best Cooks Use"



Early photo of the Harrisburg Roller Mill that appeared in the Southwest Messenger.

Chronological History

Local Historic Events Being Recorded By Year

The office at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum has undertaken a new project to make a chronological historic record of Grove City that hopefully will be available on the internet in 2012.

This will be an ongoing project with new information entered on a regular basis.

The intention is to make reference to significant events in Grove City's history by recording the events, where additional information is available, and the person's name who provided the initial information.

Several people have assisted in this project including Marilyn Gibbone, Paul Grossman, Marvin Weinhart, Earl Nicholson, Bill Ferguson, Ray Ruoff and Russ Cox.

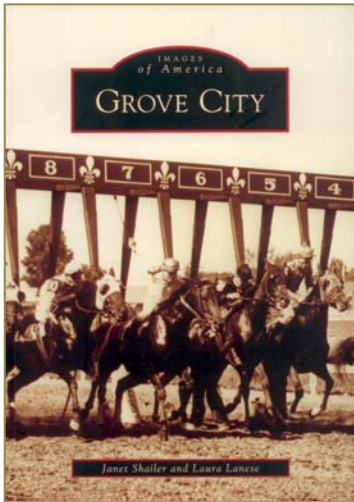
If you would like to help in the project, bring your information to the Welcome Center. It will be copied and returned.

Historic Book Provides Excellent Holiday Gift

If you are looking for an ideal holiday gift that will provide a lasting memory, look no further than the Images of America series on Grove City.

Written by Janet Shailer and Laura Lanese with historic photography provided in part by the Grove City Library, the book provides a glimpse into the city's past.

The book is available at the Sommer House Gallery in the Grove City Town Center and the Welcome Center.



the News . . . in brief

Vintage Car Show Plan

Tom Wilhelm is interested in organizing a vintage car show as a fund raiser for the historical society next year.

Individuals interested in working with him to plan and coordinate the project should call him at 878-2432.

He is looking for organizational ideas, various car classes, registration procedures and other ideas that would make the event successful for the society.

Society Officers Re-Elected

Steve Jackson has been re-elected president and Pam Drone will continue to serve as vice president for the next two years from 2011-2013.

Society Membership Numbers

The current membership for the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society is 133 and of that total 61 are lifetime members, according to Linda Lewis.

Beulah Park Historic Marker

Scott Fulton, one of the newest members of the Historical Society, has taken on a project to secure and fund an Ohio Historical Marker for Beulah Park. The marker, at this point, would be located at the main entrance into the track. Scott works as a planner for the Economic Development and Planning Department for Franklin County. Donations to this project can be made to the Beulah historic marker fund in care of the SWFCHS.

Arranged Volunteers

A special thanks to Ann Reynolds for organizing volunteers for the Winter Lights and Mistletoe Market.

Recent Deaths

Mary Jane Norris (Keller), 91, passed away Nov. 25, 2010. She was a member of the historical society. Mrs. Norris was an avid volunteer and donated over 4400 hours of service at The Ohio State University Medical Center. She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Stanley E. Norris.

Elizabeth Werner Morrison, daughter of Society members Richard and Joan Werner, passed away earlier this month after a lengthy illness. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Sympathy is also extended to Paul and Sandie Crissinger for her mother, Betty Rae, a charter and life member of the historical society.

Please send any special notes concerning the Society's members to the mailing address or send it by E-mail.

Looking for an end-of-the-year 2010 tax deduction?

Consider a special gift to the

Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

A 501(c)3 charitable organization. Questions? Contact your tax advisor. Gifts can be mailed to: Southwest Franklin County Historical Society, 3378 Park St., Suite B, Grove City, OH 42123

Info search!

A last minute request for information was received this week from Blair Meece. She is looking for any class pictures of the Harrisburg School between the years 1920-1930. In particular, the search is for members of the Conley family who lived in the Harrisburg community at that time.

Historical Society

Meeting Schedule for 2011

All meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

3220 Columbus St., Grove City, OH

Unless Otherwise Noted

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of meeting; occasion</u>
Jan. 4	Regular Monthly Meeting
Feb. 1	Regular Monthly Meeting
Mar. 1	Regular Monthly Meeting
April 5	Regular Monthly Meeting
Apr 29-May 1	The Encampment
May 3	Regular Monthly Meeting
June 7	Regular Monthly Meeting
July 5	Regular Monthly Meeting
July 9	Bake Sale, Farmers Market
Aug. 2	Picnic – Eat at 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 6	Regular Monthly Meeting
Oct. 2	Old Time Harvest Day, 1-5 p.m.
Oct. 4	Regular Monthly Meeting
Nov. 1	Regular Monthly Meeting
Dec. 3	Christmas Home Tour, 3-8 p.m.
Dec. 6	Christmas Potluck, 6:30 p.m.

2011 Century Village Open House Schedule

Fourth Saturday, 2-4 p.m. May through September

Grove City Welcome Center and Museum

Museum open and staffed by Society volunteers for The Encampment, Farmers Market, Arts in the Alley, Old Time Harvest Day, Santa Parade, Mistletoe Market and Christmas Home tour.

Southwest Pioneer

James F. Hale, Editor

Email news items to jhale45@gmail.com

Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

A 501(c) 3 Non-Profit Charitable Organization

3378 Park Street, Suite B, Grove City, OH 43123

Steve Jackson, President, 871-0081

Pam Drone, Vice President

Trudie Gardner, Shirley Bartok, Co-Secretaries

Louis Eyerman, Treasurer



This photograph shows the Orient railroad station back in 1955. The photo was provided by Jim Henry, a railroad historian who lives in Pike County. He was asking if anyone knew if this was the original paint color. Henry said indications were that the color shown is the original paint scheme.

Newsletter Committee Attempts To Reduce Printing, Postage Cost

Society members who have E-mail are being encouraged to provide their electronic address to help reduce the cost of printing newsletters and postage in 2011.

Presently, most people receive their copy of the Southwest Pioneer by E-mail but at least 50 members still receive copies. That is the number we would like to reduce if at all possible.

People without E-mail will continue to receive a printed copy by mail.

If you can help save printing costs and postage, please send your E-mail address to Pam Drone at georgettelovell@yahoo.com.

Ohio's National Influence

The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco was designed by Joseph Strauss of Cincinnati, in 1937. *Zanesville native Cass Gilbert was the architect in 1935 for the Supreme Court building.* The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was designed by Maya Ying Lin of Athens in 1981. *The current storage vault for the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence was designed by Mosler Safe Company of Hamilton, Ohio in 1952.* East Room chandeliers at the White House were installed by Lancaster native President Grant.