



"The undersigned citizens and legal voters of the village of Grove City, in the township of Jackson, county of Franklin, hereby petition your honorable body for the incorporation of the above named village. Said proposed incorporated town is situated in Jackson Township, Franklin County, on the Columbus and Harrisburg turnpike, six miles southwest of the city of Columbus, and being part of the Virginia Military Survey No. 1388 entered originally by Washington and Morgan, and accurate plat of said village being attached to this petition. The incorporated name of said town to be 'Incorporation of Grove City.'"

***~ Submitted: March 5, 1866
~ Granted: March 13, 1866***

Saturday, June 4 • 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

- Distribution of Commemorative Coins 10 a.m.
- Self-guided Building Tours 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- 1860s School Day Experience..... 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Learn old-fashioned lessons in the schoolhouse.
- Hands-on historical activities 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Taste hard tack, make rope & learn about 19th century living.
- Demonstrators 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
View a blacksmith, butter churners & chair caners at work.
- Live Bluegrass Performances Noon-6 p.m.
The Corey Hensley Band, Nightflyer, Open Highway & more
- Vintage 1860s Base Ball..... 1 p.m.
Ohio Village Muffins vs. Century Village Greyhounds
- Sesquicentennial Ceremony 1:15 p.m.
*Comments by Steve Jackson, President, SWFCHS,
Mayor Richard L. "Ike" Stage &
State Representative Cheryl L. Grossman, Ohio House District 23
Followed by the ringing of the Concord Bell*
- Dedication of Trees 1:30 p.m.
Honoring SWFCHS Members Louis Eyerman & Roy Hedrick

Sunday, June 6 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

- Outdoor Church Service 10 a.m.
(non-denominational)
- Self-guided Building Tours 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 1860s School Day Experience..... 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Hands-on Historical Activities..... 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Demonstrators 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Gospel Performance by Corey Hensley Noon

**HERITAGE
CELEBRATION &
SESQUICENTENNIAL**
(Celebrating March 2016 - March 2017)

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 & SUNDAY, JUNE 5



CENTURY VILLAGE • FRYER PARK
4185 Orders Road, Grove City

SOUTHWEST FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GROVE CITY PARKS & RECREATION

3226 Kingston Ave., Grove City, OH 43123

614-277-3050 • GroveCityOhio.gov

facebook.com/GroveCityOhio • twitter.com/GroveCityOhio

instagram.com/GroveCityOhio



Grove City: A Brief History

The land upon which Grove City now sits was once heavily wooded and teamed with wildlife including turkey, squirrel, beaver, elk and deer as well as bobcats, mountain lions and bears. It was the fur trade driven by the abundant wildlife that drew various Native American nations and European fortune seekers to the area. The Scioto River was a key feature of the region. The Scioto Trail, the main on-land transportation route used for warfare, trade and migration, followed the river from its mouth in present-day Portsmouth north to the Sandusky River, then along that river to Lake Erie. The Scioto River with the Little Miami and Ohio rivers anchored surveys for the land bequeathed to Revolutionary War generals from Virginia in payment for service.

In 1803, Ohio became a state and was carved into counties. Franklin County was further divided into four townships, the southwest quadrant named Franklin Township. As the population grew, the township was further divided, creating Jackson Township in 1815.

In 1805, Hugh Grant Sr. purchased 450 acres in present Jackson Township to establish a homestead. Unfortunately, after settling on the wrong land (not uncommon as deeds often identified parcels with vague descriptions of landscape elements), he fell to his death in 1806. In 1810, his widow and children were conveyed land “beginning at the northeast corner of Survey 1383 at two white oaks and a black oak...,” the area around Haughn Road and Park Street. Due to thick woods, wet ground and a lack of established, reliable roadways, the population in the new township grew slowly, numbering 310 in 1820 and 784 in 1840.

The catalyst to the formation of Grove City was construction of the Columbus and Harrisburg Turnpike in 1848-1849 using the stagecoach trail running from Columbus to Mount Sterling. The turnpike finally established reliable, direct connectivity with the state capital, a path to market for residents, and increased traffic from long-distance travelers. By 1850, the township’s population had doubled to 1,550.

The turnpike was seen as a prime opportunity by William Foster Breck, a merchant from Fairfield County who purchased 273 acres in Jackson Township west of the road from his father-in-law in 1847, land he maintained as a farm. He bought an 15 additional acres on the east side of the road from the Grant family and formed



W.F. Breck Home • Illustrator: Earl Nicholson

a partnership with other Fairfield County businessmen: John Malott, brother-in-law Jeremiah Smith, carpenter George Weygandt and mason William Sibray. In 1852, those 15 acres were divided into plats, forming the new town named “Grove City” after the trees left standing once the plats were cleared. They built a general store, a post office, a brick plant and a sawmill, then set to enticing people to move to the budding town of 50 with Columbus and Lancaster newspaper advertisements:

The country around is fertile and thickly settled. There are now here two Churches, the third one in progress of being built, and the fourth in anticipation of being erected during another year. A fine, commodious School house has just been completed; a large Steam Saw Mill, with two run of Saws in full operation, with an abundance of room to add more machinery, should there be any person who would like to make an investment; one Store, an excellent opening for several more stores as there are two hundred families within 2 miles of this place, and by extending a circumference of five or six miles, the number would be greatly increased; a trade of eight or ten miles may be drawn here by having stores enough to create a little competition.

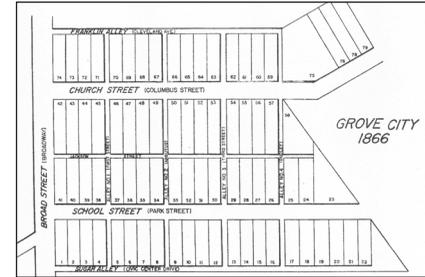
Mechanics will find this a desirable situation, particularly the “howers of wood,” as this neighborhood has the reputation of having a superior article of the various kind of oak, and many other varieties of timber.

It is hoped that some person will attend the sale for the purpose of purchasing property to build a large and commodious public house. It is certainly one of the best locations now known or vacant, for a house of that kind, as there is no house of public entertainment between Columbus and Harrisburg, a distance of fourteen miles, over a beautiful turnpike, on which there is a large amount of travel, and droves of cattle and hogs passing almost daily. I have counted passing my door within the space of four hours’ time, ninety four carriages, buggies & wagons, all going one directions and well filled to say nothing about a large number of persons on horseback and a-foot; and no doubt but a majority of those persons were “weary and heavy laden,” and would have been glad to get some refreshments, had there been a house here to accommodate this.

The population of the town grew steadily, surpassing 140 by 1870. In 1866, a group of 37 merchants and farmers in the town of Grove

City gathered to petition Franklin County and State of Ohio officials to incorporate the village on March 5, 1866. The incorporation was granted March 13, 1866. Unfortunately, Breck did not live to see this achievement, dying in a farming accident two years earlier. A.G. Grant, grandson of Hugh Grant, Sr., purchased most of Breck’s farmland from his widow.

The first election held May 10, 1866, resulted in Dr. Joseph Bullen being named mayor; Randolph Higgy, clerk; Gabriel Postle Sr., marshal; and William Sibray, Anton Pilger Sr., A.M. Anderson, John L. Smith and Leonard Buckholtz, councilmen.



1866 Grove City Plat • Illustrator: Earl Nicholson

Grove City continued to grow steadily as the forests gave way to farms, homes, churches and schools, as well as mills, stores, factories and other businesses. The village was strengthened when the Cincinnati, Midland City and Columbus Railroad began service through Grove City in 1884.

In 1889, the area of the village more than doubled when Grant platted “Beulah’s Addition,” located on the land west of the turnpike. It filled with new villagers, surging in popularity once Grant brokered the establishment of an electric interurban route from Columbus to Grove City in 1898, making it easy for Grove Citians to work in or transport wares to Columbus and for visitors to make their way to Grove City attractions.

After a period of limited growth during the Great Depression and World War II, Grove City had a strong period of geographic and population expansion during the 1950s, surpassing the 5,000 residents needed to apply for a city charter by more than 50 percent by 1958. Voters approved the Grove City Charter November 4, 1958, and Grove City officially became a city.

Information collected from:

“Images of America: Grove City” (Janet Shailer and Laura Lanese, 2008); “History of Grove City and Jackson Township,” The Grove City Record (Harold N. Windsor, June 24, 1932); “History of Franklin and Pickaway Counties, Ohio” (Williams Brothers, 1880); “History of Franklin County” (William T. Martin, 1858); “Sale of Grove City Lots,” Lancaster Weekly Gazette (W.F. Breck, Sept. 22, 1852)