



# The Greater Dover Historical Society Inc.

**MARCH 2013**



## **REMEMBERING GAYLE**

Mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, athlete in her teenage years, world traveler, GDHS ass't. archivist. She persevered through many health issues with a positive attitude, and fought a good fight until the end. Her memorial service paid tribute to her full and interesting life. We mourn the loss of our good friend - she will be missed.

Submitted by June Kinsey

Gayle was a charter member of GDHS, one of the first 50 to join. She took her membership very seriously. She served as our Assistant Archivist for many years - quite an undertaking.

My memories are on a more personal level. We reconnected when the township formed an Industrial Commercial/ Development Committee in 1996/97, and I asked Gayle to represent Dover Borough since she knew more about the Borough having lived there all her life.

Gayle and I went on a Work Mission to the Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, NC in 1999. She worked with one group while I worked with another. These projects were for those much less fortunate than us; it was quite a learning experience. It was during our down time in our room that Gayle decided to teach me how to play two handed pinochle. I played pinochle but never two handed. After about an hour, she finally said, darn, I know you're not stupid. Why can't you learn this? At that I lost it and couldn't quit laughing. Of course Gayle saw the funny side of this and joined in. I mention this one trip because it was the first one we took together, and it had a serious side and a fun side. Probably shouldn't mention a man that 'put the make on her,' having overheard this I disappeared very quickly, I later heard about my disappearing act.

Gayle and I were members of the Environmental Assessment for Senior Involvement. Every month, summer through winter, we tested Fox Run Creek and Beaver Creek. In summer we had to perform a macro invertebrate count which involved one person (me) in the stream to turn up rocks. Gayle would sit on a rock downstream. The last thing Gayle would ask before we left to do this test was, "Do you have a change of clothing?" I always managed to fall in Beaver Creek, when this happened, Gayle tried really hard not to laugh but that was impossible for her.

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I mentioned the above only to show you no matter what we did together there was always laughter.

I can't begin to tell you how many hours we spent seated at her dining room table discussing the 'old timers' we remembered in Dover Borough. She remembered some that I had forgotten and vice-versa. Some of what we remembered were indiscretions of some of these older residents. We both concluded that it wasn't much different today than it was back then. Again laughter.

The above is just a small number of things we shared. I couldn't begin to list all of the moments we shared, some mischievous. But then neither one of us pretended to be angels and again there was always laughter.

Gayle was someone you could confide in and knew she would never, ever break that confidence.

At this point I'll have to end this, to many memories and no longer any time to make more and laugh with her.

Submitted by Maddie Shermeyer

Gayle's obituary, a record of her zest for life, which appeared in the York Daily Record on February 28, 2013, was a joy to read. In my few short years of friendship with Gayle through our active membership in the Greater Dover Historical Society, I was buoyed by her frequent bursts of humor and enthusiasm. She was dedicated to her community and contributed to its well-being in many ways. Her life was one of warmth, commitment, dedication and good cheer. Now, rest well Gayle.

Submitted by Lucia Hrinyak

Our First Show and Tell

Submitted by Cindy Snyder

We're making something old something new for the GDHS membership. Remember those fun elementary days of show and tell? We invite you to join us on April 18 for our first *Show and Tell*. Please bring a family heirloom, an unusual item or just a fun collectible with special meaning. Show your treasure to the membership, and tell us about its history and significance. No frogs or gerbils please.

Meeting Schedule for 2013

April 18, 2013

May 16, 2013

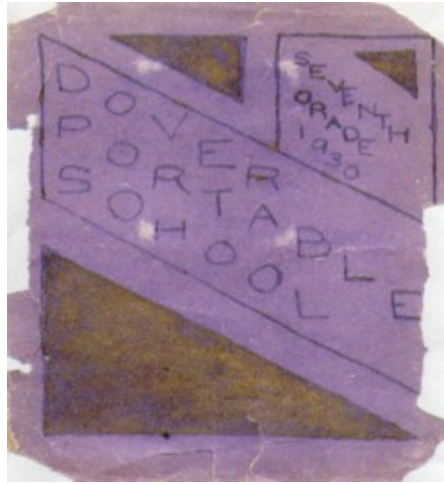
June 20, 2013

July 18, 2013

September 19, 2013—member picnic @ Brookside Park

October 17, 2013

November 21, 2013



## Farewell to a Dover *Portable* School

Submitted by Jo Ott

Several references to the Dover portable school can be found in the 250th anniversary *History of Dover Township, York County, Pennsylvania*. Kathleen Shoemaker Brandt mentions one in her essay on the *Wonderful One Room Schools*: "My first year in school was 1930. I was in the portable building which was on the playground of the old three room school in Dover Borough. The teacher was Edna Boyer. There were eight grades in one room and each grade stood in front of the room for class...."

The second mention is of the 1925 combined Dover Borough and Dover Township school directors' decision to purchase a portable school building for primary students. Later, during the summer of the 1952 high school expansion, all the one-room schools in Dover Township were sold at public sale, *except the portable school*. Also kept in use for high school instruction was an old three-room Dover Elementary School. That portable classroom which had been in Weigelstown was moved to the high school site and behind the three-room school to house the industrial arts shop.

Edna, after several dead-end census searches in and around Dover, is discovered living in the city of York. She first shows up as a two year-old in the York City 1910 U. S. census, living with her mother, Bessie, father, Morris and two siblings. Later, in the 1940 York City census, she is listed as a teacher in public schools living with just her mother, Bessie. Edna's occupation is listed as teacher, her highest grade completed is college, 2nd year, and her income is \$1300.00 for 36 weeks.

My interest in Edna and the Dover portable school came about after rereading small compositions written by some of Edna's students and which Edna made into a small booklet, and to which Edna also contributed. She wrote this introduction:

### To The Boys And Girls of The Dover Portable School

Who have found my faults and have shown them to me; Who have tried my patience and made me a bit more patient by doing so; who have unknowingly taught me a greater and better understanding of American Boyhood and Girlhood. To those boys and to those girls do I very gratefully and affectionately dedicate this little book.

(TO BE CONTINUED—Editors Note: This article was very lengthy and will be published in several parts in our newsletters for 2013)

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**PRESERVING OUR HISTORY FOR OUR FUTURE**