



# The Greater Dover Historical Society Inc.

**MARCH 2014**



## President's Message

Submitted by Kay Stitley

As the newly elected president of the GDHS, I accepted this position with both apprehension and anticipation. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Madelyn, Lori, Bill and the Board of Directors for their dedication and guidance in the past. I would also like to extend a big thank you to everyone who has volunteered at the Blacksmith Shop, The Dover Fair, trash pick up, etc. Volunteers supporting the society is our biggest asset.

As I think about the coming year my biggest concern is our membership. We cannot operate without a fully functional team. Therefore, at the January meeting I designated February as our Membership Month. During the month we set up at the Dover Antique Mall on both Saturday and Sunday from 10 until 4. We had some interesting days, met lots of nice people and added to our membership roster. The management of the antique mall was both generous and accommodating and has extended an invitation for us to return.

Let us move forward in 2014 with pride and passion for the GDHS. I will be happy to address any and all of your thoughts and suggestions for new programs or social gatherings to benefit the society.

## BLACKSMITH SHOP NEWS

Submitted by Randy Worley

Our Blacksmith Shop will soon begin its 2014 schedule and we invite everyone to come out, take a look at the important history that our Society has preserved. We have two (2) blacksmiths, Eli Nikkanen and Fred Shaffer, who are eager to share their blacksmithing talents. The Blacksmith Shop is located in Ketterman Park on Butter Road and is open the second Saturday of each month, April through October from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are looking for members to sign up for a Saturday to greet visitors and have them sign our guest book. This is your opportunity to get to know our blacksmiths and visitors from our community. Please contact Randy at 292-4997, come to a meeting or call an officer to sign up and help. See you at the Blacksmith Shop!

## 2014 Calendar of Events

- March 20, 2014 General Meeting followed by Show and Tell
- April 17, 2014 Brief meeting followed by speaker Virginia Kunkel (former Dover resident and teacher)
- May 15, 2014 General Meeting
- June 17, 2014 Walking Tour— meet @ Blacksmith Shop 6pm
- June 19, 2014 General Meeting with Strawberry Festival

## Memorial Fund

With heavy hearts our community bid farewell to Mr. Charles Guise. Charlie was the mayor during Dover's 200<sup>th</sup> Bicentennial Celebration. Mr. Guise's family designated the GDHS as the recipient of his memorial contributions. We extend our sincerest sympathy to the Guise family for their loss, and our gratitude for remembering our society.

## 2014 Membership Drive

As stated in the President's Message, we held a membership drive at the Dover Antique Mall during the month of February. Since the January 2014 meeting, we have had 23 persons join the society. We welcome these folks and encourage them to attend our meetings and become involved. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talent for this project

## Farewell to a Dover *Portable* School (Part 3)

Submitted by Jo Ott

Charles Rodgers

Charles moved away from us before we got his picture taken but if anyone is fortunate enough to get one of him it will be worthwhile. Charles is a handsome boy and one whom we all liked. Especially did we like his spelling. He in one of the persons who believe in spelling a word exactly as it is pronounced even if it is not pronounced correctly. However, he will overcome this weakness of his and some day we will hear he is the champion speller in York County. We hope he likes his new home and finds some task which will give him pleasure and happiness.

Grace Prince

Grace boasts a long line of English parents. In fact, not so far back the line there was a king, or maybe it was a prince, who had everyone bowing to him. Maybe Grace's freckles are inherited from this king or prince, or perhaps they are gathered during the summer on her long walks along creeks when she collects buttercups. Grace is fond of the outdoors and misses no opportunity of being there. We feel sure that this love of Nature, her love of children and her conscientious attitude toward study will make her a successful teacher.

Catherine Lightner

"Catty" is a well liked girl. She is liked by the boys as well but we know of one who simply won't give her a look no matter how cunning or coy she acts. Too bad, Catty, but he will fall yet. There is plenty of time in the future. When there is any work to be done Catty is always first on hand and the last to leave. We'll never forget her efforts to get every cent she could for the piano fund. Best wishes to you.

The Beginners

Why do they call us "Beginners" I say?  
Please tell the answer to me I pray.  
Our learning began when we made our first cry  
And, God helping us, we'll still be "Beginners"  
When we take our last breath and say "Good-bye".  
So why call us "Beginners"?  
Why do you?  
When you are just a "Beginner" too?

Grade Two

We second graders are smart, we think.  
We can read, and write, and count and sing.  
And think we can do 'most anything.  
We'll go to the third grade too next year  
And then we'll get many more lessons, we hear.  
So we are glad we are in Grade Two  
Where we don't have quite as much to do.

Our Third Grade

Here is the pride of the school. My, how they have worked and played! No matter how much work was given to them they always had time to run around the room. As restless as a boy who is forced to sit on a hive of bees. We liked our third graders even though they couldn't sit still and keep busy. That is the secret of success--to be able to accomplish tasks and always be ready for more. Next year we hope they will overcome their restlessness and get down to real hard work.

Grades Five and Six

What a mixed group this is. It is as bad as hash. But despite this we are happy with the work these boys and girls have done. More than any other grade in the room they have always been

asking, "Miss Boyer, do you have anything for me to do?" What helpful and willing boys and girls for work. We appreciate this thoughtfulness and willingness and hope that it continues next year.

When you've gone from this room  
May you not forget  
The friends you've made  
And the pace you've set  
But keep on trying--try again--Try  
And success will reward you by and by.

Oh won't you come back to  
see us some day?  
If it's only to look in the  
door and say:  
"HELLO!"

Vacation Time

Goodbye, little desk at school, goodbye  
We're off to the fields and the open sky.  
The bells of the brooks and the woodland bells  
Are ringing us out to the vales and dells.  
To meadow ways fair and to hilltop cool  
Goodbye little desk at school.

Goodbye, little desk at school, goodbye,  
We've other brave lessons and tasks to try.  
But we will come back in the fall you know  
And as gay to come as we are to go.  
With ever a laugh and never a sigh  
Goodbye little desk at school, goodbye.  
(Contributed by Janet Myers)

The students' writings have been duplicated here just as they wrote them and just as Edna, who expresses her great pleasure with her students in this, her first year of teaching, placed them in her booklet. Some lack an author's name and in her "Appreciation" Edna gives thanks to Janet Myers, Fairy Slothower and "the others" for their contributions.

The original portable school book was donated to the Greater Dover Historical Society by Janet Myers Schwalm. The Myers' family farm was located in the vicinity of the Giant, M&T Bank and Turkey Hill along Rt. 74, just south of the Dover Borough limits. Janet passed away in 2012 at age 93.

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The GDHS is planning on creating a float to enter in the Dover Borough 250th Anniversary Celebration parade scheduled for August 23, 2014. Let us know if you have an idea or could supply a trailer or truck to carry the float. The Blacksmith Shop will be open for demonstrations during this celebration.

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The following reflection on Dover (see next page) was written by Savilla Slothower. Savilla did not date the piece. Savilla Mickley Slothower was the wife of Louis Slothower, the barber in Dover, and distant relative of Ralph Slothower. In reference to Savilla's mention that Dover was founded in 1752, it should be noted that Gerhart Graeff, who came to Dover in 1752, petitioned for a license to keep a public house or tavern. It was Jacob Joiner who secured 203 acres in 1764. Thus the founding of Dover. Submitted by Lois Slothower.

Dover, R. D. 3  
Pennsylvania.

DOVER.

When I face the Conowago Hills I see the town of Dover, which, nestling among the hills reminds me of the town of Bethlehem Of Judea. Dover was founded in 1752 and named for Dover, England. In 1860 the United Brethren was the only church in the town and still is used for worship.

Four churches grace our little town today. Public School and High School; The Dover National Bank, restaurants and grocery stores, a doctor, a dentist, barbers and plumbers, contractors and Memorial Works, a Union Fire Company, and a Community playground.

Retired farmers here live almost independent, fattening pigs, raising chickens and farming their own gardens. The brick and cement pavements are narrow allowing no trees to shade the side walks; residents of Dover are not rich except in kindness; I know of none as enemies.

Its Main Street may be considered a mile long which is also the York and Carlisle road where traffic is constantly moving to and fro. The town gets its water from a deep well which is pumped to a high reservoir; for this reason the town does not expand its boundaries. People living outside the Borough have their own wells and electric pumps, also a dairy, a creamery and a warehouse.

If you should use a compass in any room, a corner would be north, a corner would be east, etc., some of our folks who have travelled the world over, in due time, return to Dover.

I love my home town most because I have lived here more than forty years; where the air is pure, where the birds sing and where in Summer, the frogs croak by the stream down in the meadow. Whatever it lacks, I believe, Dover will always be noted for its STABILITY, regardless of time or events.

## PRESERVING OUR HISTORY FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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