



Fleetwood Area Historical Society Newsletter

www.fleetwoodpa.org • FleetwoodHistory@fleetwoodpa.org • 610-944.5800

SUMMER 2023

VOL. 25 ISSUE 3

President's Message

The long awaited book is back from the publisher. You will receive a sale notice in this newsletter if you haven't already received one by mail. Please either send in the one you received in mail or cut the one from this newsletter and send it in.

The school room is really taking shape, the volunteers have been hanging photos for the last two weeks. Betty, CD, John, and Grant have working on it every Monday. If you get a chance stop by on Monday morning and check it out.

We have started a new program to get more members, asking people who they would like a newsletter sent to, hoping we can get them interested to join and send in their application which comes in the October newsletter. Just give us their name and address and we will send them the newsletter. There is no commitment to join, we are just trying to get the word out about us.

I have lined up presentations for Sept. Oct. and Nov. all three are listed in this newsletter.

Finally I want to thank Russell Anderson for setting up the program to bring Fleetwood Fifth graders to tour the museum. I attended a couple of these tours and believe me holding the attention and answering questions to twenty-five fifth graders is no easy task. He received over fifty thank you cards, I hope he plans to continue with this program. Thanks again Russell.

In closing the Historical Society exists due to your support, last year we went through difficult months with School Room flooding and removing the asbestos, we are trying to make the room a place where you can enjoy the museum.

Again we thank you for your support.

Art Counts

Future Programs

Presentations will be held in the cafeteria, starting at 7PM. The downstairs Museum will be open after the meeting.

Sept. 20, 2023 Richard Polityka

Reading and Berks during World War I:

Explore life at home here in Berks County during the Great War

Oct. 18, 2023 Bob Wood

Early log cabin structures in S.E. Penna.

It is estimated that up to 90% of local buildings were made of logs, including early churches, taverns and farm structures were made of logs. The program also looks at methods of log joining and construction

Nov. 15, 2023 Richard Polityka

Christmas Past on Penn Street

A photographic presentation that explores the nostalgia and joy of celebrating Christmas in downtown Reading.

THE HISTORY BOOKS ARE HERE!!

ORDER FORM
IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Pick up your copy at the carnival
or at the Museum
on Mondays 9:00-12:00

Fleetwood's 150 Year Anniversary Plans

August 12 - Day at the Museum

- A Community Center
Open House

August 12 - Night at the Museum

- A ticketed FCCO planned
activity in the cafeteria
featuring refreshments and
premier showing of Eric
Schaeffer's "*Finding Fleetwood*"

Sept 28-30 - Carnival in Park

Sept. 30 - Anniversary Parade

October 6 - Fireworks following

Homecoming activities at the
High School

**October 8 - Community Church
Service**

Fleetwood Area Historical Society

Officers

President	Arthur Counts
V. President	Bill Strause
Rec. Secretary	
Treasurer	David Dreibelbis
Corr. Secretary	Becky Schroeder

Directors

C. Derr	Jim Shade	Grant Moyer
Dale Adams	John Koller	

Contributors:

Genevieve Heffner
Linda Reichardt
Russell Anderson
Betty Hilbert
Roger Moyer

Museum Hours

Mondays 9:00-12:00

FLEETWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROOM 1 110 W. ARCH ST. FLEETWOOD, PA 19522

The Fleetwood Area Historical Society is planning a second printing of the 150 year anniversary photo book. The price has changed due to a smaller run. These books will be available at the Anniversary Parade Carnival in the Fleetwood Park on September 28th to 30th. Books can be mailed to you or picked up at the Society on Mondays starting Oct. 2.

Cost:	\$25.00	if picked up	_____	quantity
	\$35.00	if mailed	_____	quantity

Return this card with any address corrections to label on reverse
by September 5th to guarantee a book.

RETURN PAYMENT WITH THIS ORDER FORM
to the address at the top of card.

Your response will determine the order size.
Please return as soon as possible.

A Biography of George A. Knoll

Unique by today's standards, George A. Knoll was a man who was born, lived, worked and died in the town of Fleetwood. He was born on May 9, 1890 in the borough to Cyrus and Amanda (Noll) Knoll. In the Fleetwood Centennial (1973) book, there is an interesting excerpt from Cyrus Knoll's diary. The time line goes from 1879 to Cyrus's death in 1899. It's a great example of how fragile and uncertain life was during this era. Cyrus and Amanda had at least two children die shortly after being born. Medical care was very limited at this time and Cyrus's diary hits that point home again and again. This probably played a role in George Knoll's success in his lifetime, as his father, Cyrus, died when George was only 8-1/2 years old.

George attended local schools and graduated from High School in 1905. He started as a newsboy in 1899, the year his father died, and served as a carrier, agent and correspondent for newspapers along with doing his school studies, plus other work. After working in a hoisery mill and then in the Fleetwood Metal Body Co., George began as a messenger and then a clerk at the First National Bank of Fleetwood, starting in May 1909.

To further his knowledge, he took a correspondence course through Alexander Hamilton Institute. Although dissolved in the 1980's, this school was established to help men gain business knowledge and training to enable them to move ahead as business executives. It must have helped as George was elected cashier of the Fleetwood Bank in January 1915. He was 24 years old at this time and was the youngest Cashier in the county. There was a one year break in his employment at the Bank and that was due to his service in the U.S. Military. George was a member of the Battery Commanders Detail, 312th Field Artillery, 79th Division in World War I. He saw 10 months of service abroad during 1918 thru July 1919.

There were many other accomplishments in George Knoll's lifetime, not the least being married to Marie, an honor graduate of the Reading Hospital Nursing School in 1921. Marie was the daughter of Samuel and Minerva (schlegel) Frey. George and Marie were blessed with four children: Betty, George F., Richard and Robert.

On display at Fleetwood Historical Society is a \$10.00 bill issued by The First National Bank of Fleetwood and designated "National Currency - United States of America", dated June 20, 1907 and signed by Harry Urich, President and GEO. A. KNOLL, Cashier. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Rajah Temple, Knights Templar, Knights of Pythias, Fleetwood Grange and Fleetwood Volunteer Fire Company. He was also financial officer of Horace M. Kieffer Post of American Legion, Treasurer of Fleetwood High School Alumni Assoc., Treasurer of Fleetwood Branch of Berks County Chapter of American Red Cross, plus numerous other associations and church (St. Paul's Reformed Church) activities.

How did he fit all this into such a short lifetime? He died of pneumonia at the very young age of 43, July 7, 1933. His youngest son, Bob Knoll was only 7 months old at the time. George is buried in Fleetwood Cemetary.

GH



Mystery Photo - Do you recognize this photo? Look for the details in our next newsletter!

William A. & Carol A. Strause
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