

"Reflections of Vine Grove"

VOL 1 NO.5

Vine Grove, Kentucky

Spring 2025

SIDE NOTES

All programs are open to the public.

Public Meetings
6:30 @ Vine Grove City Hall

3rd Tuesdays of:

FEB

May

AUG

NOV

Donations and membership are available at each meeting or you may submit a request to info@vghist.org

The Vine Grove Historical Society is a non-profit organization created in 2023 whose mission is to preserve, exhibit, and promote the history of Vine Grove, Kentucky.

Board Members

Mary Dunn
Tim Howard
Tina Gray
Eric Yates
Chris Mayhew

CONTACT US AT
[INFO@VGHIST.ORG](mailto:info@vghist.org)

Veterans Project

SEEKING VETERAN ARTIFACTS

Vine Grove Historical Society's newest project is celebrating the service of our own Vietnam Veterans - Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force & Coast Guard.

Our society is collecting the following from our veterans:

1. Photographs (of service member in uniform)
2. Post Cards (written home by VG veteran)
3. Letters (written home by VG veteran)

*The above needs to have Service Member's NAME, DATE, and LOCATION (on back of letter, post card/photograph).

2025, will mark **fifty years** since the official end of the Vietnam Police Action (fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975).

Honoring our Vietnam service members is an honor that we are greatly embracing.

If you would like to participate in our endeavor you can do so in two ways - through mail OR dropping off items.

***Your photographs, post cards, letters can be copies!**

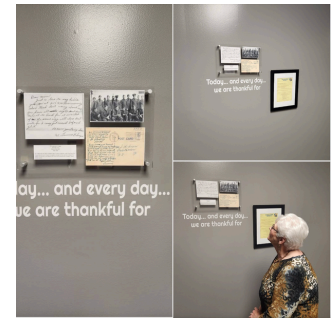
Please mail your items to:
Vine Grove Historical Society
300 West Main Street
Vine Grove, KY 40175

*Items to be hand delivered can be dropped off at:
Vine Grove City Hall
300 West Main Street

****Denote on the envelope that it is for the VGHSociety.**

Thank you for your help in our newest project of honoring our own Vine Grove Vietnam Veterans. We Salute YOU!!

Don't miss out on the opportunity to add your veteran's history to our wall. Bring your artifacts to the next meeting so they can be scanned. If you would like to sponsor a frame the cost is \$25.00



Thanks goes to Agnes Yates, as she provided the very first addition to the Veteran Wall by providing a picture and two articles of correspondence and a from her father during WWII

Meeting Memories and Messages



Michael Worthington was our November speaker and discussed his extensive knowledge of our local cemeteries and his experience finding ancestors. One of his most notable stories surrounds the hillside filled with babies left behind as soldiers moved on to other assignments.

February is Membership Month

Tina Gray, our treasurer, will be at the sign-in table to collect dues

Vine Grove Historical Society
Vine Grove, Kentucky

Save the Date

MARCH 18, 2025



David Evangelista was born and raised in Union, New York and relocated to Kentucky in 1993. He is a retired police officer with 24 years of service-20 years with the City of Vine Grove and 4 years with the City of Radcliff.

David also served for 10 years in the U.S. Army National Guard and was the Vice President of Information Technology at Abound Federal Credit Union.

Currently, he owns and operates Patriot Laser Engineering in Vine Grove and is married to Lisa Evangelista and attends Southeast Christian Church in Elizabethtown. For the past two years, David has pursued writing as an amateur author, crafting stories designed to engage and open the imagination.

ALL are WELCOME

Vine Grove City Hall @ 6pm

Meetings are held at City Hall @ 6pm on the 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November

Meetings

March 18
May 20th
July 15th
September 16th
November 18th

The Society has decided to **remove the January** meetings from our schedule. This will allow us to safely get through the unpredictable winter months.



*“From Ashes to Jubilation”
(Compiled by: Tina Gray – Part 2 of 2)*

After the American civil war ended in 1865 “industrialization” took center stage in the United States. The focus on completing the Transcontinental Railroad (by 1869) was realized. The “iron horse” had chugged its way west and small towns emerged across the vast prairie lands (as the Atlantic & Pacific coasts would be connected for quicker travel). Independent rail lines emerged within states and helped to create economic booms along every city and town the lines passed through. Trade and transportation were big positives that fueled population growth.

The year 1876 was pivotal for the citizens of Vine Grove. The railroad line was completed and the shipping of livestock & goods was elevated into high gear. The first railroad train that went through town was engineered by resident John Miles.

(Early History of Vine Grove, 2018; Paul W. Urbahns, p. 19).



*Train stopped at VG depot, 1916
(Urbahns, 2018; page 21)*



*Earliest Photo of Vine Grove
railroad depot
(“Do Remember Vine Grove”)*

As the 1890s came to a close, downtown Vine Grove saw some buildings that were wooden in construction (a few were also brick-built) & situated close together. Cost saving & easy to construct were main reasons businesses chose to build in that format. One big hazard, though, was the threat of fire. On March 28, 1899 a fire broke out on the north side of Main Street (Farmer’s Bank side). The 1899 photo shows the town’s fire department battling the blaze.



*March 28, 1899 Fire in Vine Grove
(“Do Remember Vine Grove,” 2019)*

On June 16, 1905, a fire broke out at the rear of the Thomas Brown and Son Hardware Store in downtown Vine Grove. This business, along with the Carter Brother Dry Goods, were both destroyed. (Urbahns, p. 63). In 1908 an even more destructive fire took down many buildings on the south side of Main Street (located close to the railroad tracks.).



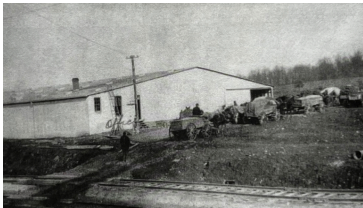
*South Side Fire, 1908
(“Do Remember Vine Grove”)*

*From the “ashes” of tragic fires, downtown Vine Grove began rebuilding.
By the teens and the early 1920s businesses were rebounding.*

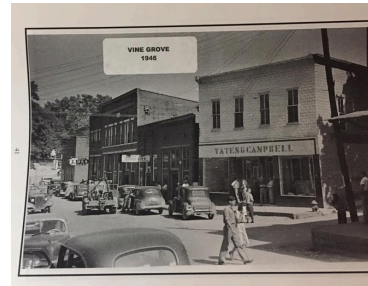


*1920s Downtown Vine Grove
 (“Do Remember Vine Grove,” Judy Eddy)*

The railroad continued to play a major role in economic development and Vine Grove was the first city in Hardin County to have a tobacco warehouse. (Urbahns, p. 79). In the photo date 1946 you can see vehicles parked on both sides of Main Street in downtown. Saturday shopping was a popular pastime for citizens and the children.



The first sale at the tobacco warehouse, on Crutcher Street, was December 10, 1914



*1946, Downtown Vine Grove
 (“Do Remember Vine Grove,” Judy Eddy)*

By 1960 downtown Vine Grove had begun to “spread out” with people investing in various business enterprises. Clothing stores, department stores, “5 & 10 cent stores,” and an enlarged Houchens grocery enticed citizens from outlying farms to shop. With almost a hundred years under its belt, the citizens decided a “jubilation” was needed to mark its history. Vine Grove held its “Centennial Celebration” on June 11-12, 1965. Besides a parade, there were carnival rides, booths, and even a “jail” to incarcerate those men whose beards did not make the 30-day growth requirement.

(The complete story is found in Chapter 23 of Paul W. Urbahns’s book “Early History of Vine Grove.”)

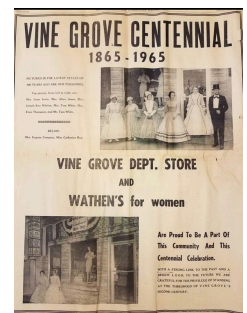


*Vine Grove Centennial, Men Sporting Beards
 (Newspaper advertisement, “Do Remember Vine Grove”)*

*Vine Grove Centennial,
 “Centennial Sheriff Button”
 (“Do Remember Vine Grove”)*



*Vine Grove Centennial, Vine Grove Dept. Store & Wathen’s
 (Newspaper advertisement, “Do Remember Vine Grove”)*



*Vine Grove Centennial,
 “Centennial Jail”
 (“Do Remember Vine Grove”)*



*Vine GroveCentennial,
 “Best Dressed” –
 Charles, Louise & Lesa Gail Bennett
 (“Do Remember Vine Grove”)*

Coming from very humble beginnings – out in the countryside – the city of Vine Grove forged through fires, a great depression and finally to jubilation. Marking its first hundred years was something the citizens wanted to remember for many years to come.