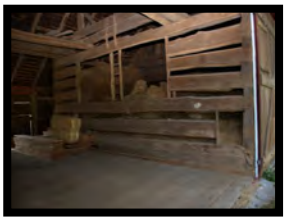
Oley Valley Heritage Association

NEWSLETTER

November, 2012



Ancient Heritage Will Not Disappear—

LOG BARNS

Living and Breathing in Berks County

A program sponsored by

The Oley Valley Heritage Association

Greg Huber is a barn and house historian, an independent scholar, consultant and principal owner of **Past Perspectives and Eastern Barn Consultants**—both historic and cultural resource companies. His special focus is on vernacular barn architecture in southeast PA and beyond.

Please join us as Mr. Huber educates us on Berks County log barns.

Everyone is invited to attend!

The program is FREE and open to the public.

A brief general membership meeting will be held prior to the program.

Book signing by Mr. Huber will be held after the program.

When: Monday, November 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Oley Fair Centre Building
26 Jefferson Street, Oley, PA

Complimentary light refreshments will be provided after the program.

Website: www.oleyvalleyheritage.org **Email:** OVHA@oleyvalleyheritage.org

Election of Directors

In accordance with the OVHA bylaws, the annual membership meeting will be held on November 19, 2012 prior to our Log Barns program. The agenda includes the election of directors for a term of three years. Those directors up for election include: Mary Ellen Lash, Robert Lesko, Margaret McCloskey, Nicola Miller and Eugene Richard. Anyone interested in holding one of these positions should appear at the membership meeting or express your interest in a position in writing prior to that meeting. Voting will take place at the November 19th meeting.

30th Anniversary Celebration

We're having a party and you are invited! When? Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Oley Fair Centre Building. A family style dinner will be provided by Moyer's Catering of Boyertown. Speaker and more information will be forthcoming in 2013. Please mark the date on your calendar!

30th Anniversary Ornament

In celebration of our 30th anniversary, the OVHA contacted Clay on Main, a local non-profit cooperative clay studio in Oley which offers classes, workshops and lectures, to produce a limited edition commemorative ornament of the association's logo featuring the DeTurk house originally created by the late Gerald H. Yoder of Oley Valley Redware. Studio members designed and painted each individual ornament, making no two alike.

The ornament will be for sale at our membership meeting on November 19th and at Christa's Country Creations after Thanksgiving. Christa's is located at the intersection of Water Street and Stitzer Roads in Oley. The price is $15 and includes tax.

For those who need the ornament shipped, please refer to our order form online at www.oleyvalleyheritage.org. For those who wish to order an ornament but do not have access to the internet, please include your order, on a separate piece of paper, with your membership renewal, remembering to include an additional $5.00 per ornament for shipping and handling.

The ornament will not be available for purchase before our November 19th membership meeting.

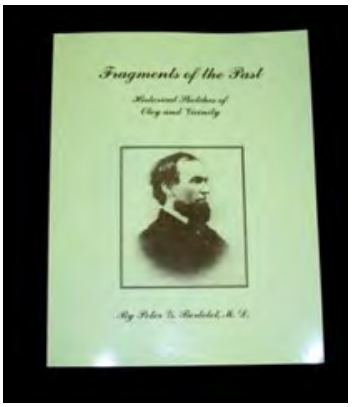
Oley Fair

The OVHA created a booth entitled *Heritage is Blooming at the Oley Fair* in keeping with the fair theme of *See What's Blooming at the 2012 Oley Valley Community Fair.* We spoke to many old and new friends. For those who didn't get to see our booth. Here are some photos.

Update on the PowWow Program

Our Pow Wow program on March 26, 2012 by Keith Schaffer was very well attended. In fact, about 120 people were in attendance. Mr. Schaffer spoke on the healing powers of PowWow, and his down-to-earth manner encouraged folks to share their experiences. He also conducted a healing circle. If you were there, you are probably wondering how our president, Darlene Dillon, is feeling since Mr. Schaffer's attempt to cure the arthritis in her legs that evening. Darlene reports that her pain was gone for five days but unfortunately, it returned.

New Reprinted Book



OVHA has reprinted another book entitled *Fragments of the Past: Historical Sketches of Oley and Vicinity* by Peter G. Bertolet, M.D. This book was originally published by the Women's Club of Oley Valley in 1980. It was created from a manuscript of over 400 pages written by Dr. Peter G. Bertolet, who practiced medicine in the Oley Valley from the mid-1840's until his death in 1865. The manuscript was created from Dr. Bertolet's notes of people he interviewed. This book will give the reader insight as to what life was like in the Oley Valley during his lifetime.

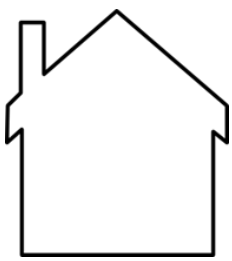
Mastof Press of Morgantown did an excellent job of reproducing this book. The original we gave them had some sketches that were barely visible. Mastof Press was able to enhance those sketches to actually look better than our original.

Fragments of the Past can be purchased at our November 19th membership meeting, at Riverview Nursery on Pricetown Road, at Evelyn & Harriett's outside of Pleasantville, or ordered online at our website to be shipped to your home. The price is $20 including tax. Shipping to your home is an additional $7.

Photo Archives

We're still in the process of collecting photos of the Oley Valley from the 1950s and earlier. If you have any, know of someone who has photos, or if someone you know has passed away and left photos, please do not throw them away. We're looking for any photos from the Oley Valley. That area would consist of Oley Township, Ruscombmanor Township, Alsace Township and Pike Township. We will scan your photos, save them for our photo archives, and possibly use them in a second book. Your photos will be returned to you. If you'd like to share photos with our organization, please contact Mary Ellen Lash at (610) 987-6414, Doug Wegman at (610) 944-8437, or Doris Lorah at (610) 987-6167.

Home for Us



Do you have any suggestions about a home for us? We are still interested in finding a home for our organization. Why do we want a home? Currently, we have our board meetings at the Oley Township Municipal Building and have artifacts and other items stored elsewhere. Our goal is to have a place where we could hold board meetings and programs for the public, to have a place where people can donate antique Oley Valley items, and to create a museum to display these antique Oley Valley items. The Oley Valley has so much history, and we'd like to save these treasures.

Memories of the Oley Valley

We received some new Memories from our members, friends and board members. We're always looking for new Memories. We're interested in nostalgia or memories of out-of-date practices (those things typically not done today). Do you have any memories to add? We'd like to hear from you, our members. Please email or write to us and include your phone number in case we have any questions. Your memory may be included in the next newsletter. Please be brief.

The Oley Valley
I remember when…

"I always remembered coming to the Oley Fair and still look forward to it every year. I enjoy the food and entertainment and the livestock." *Submitted by Bonnie Lewis*

"Jacob Wiest was a tavern owner in Germany. He came to American in the 1700's and started a tavern in the Oley Valley. His son went with his grandson to Ohio around 1810. The grandson started a tavern in Dumontville, Ohio." *Submitted by Nancy Lounsbury.*

"The very mini-auction on the northwest corner at Yellow House." *Submitted by Eloise Fisher.*

"On Friday evenings around 7:00 during the summer/fall, if we were in the field picking potatoes (a most quiet job), you could hear the start up roar and sounds from the Reading stock car races. Oh, those Oley Hills!! My dad explained it was just the way the sound was carried." *Submitted by Eloise Fisher.*

"I was quite young then, but at Tuck and Jackie Moyers' wedding reception that they held at their home, a (field) wagon hauling a band pulled in and started to play! It was a good time and everyone joked about the 'Bull Band!' Who arranged this and who played in the band – I don't know." *Submitted by Eloise Fisher.*

"I do remember taking public transportation. An incognito old school bus would pick up passengers from the intersection of Main Street and Friedensburg Road to Cherry Street. We spent time in the different types of stores, or my cousin took me to catch a movie once or twice and of course we always went to Pomeroys to check-in with her mother who worked there. My Aunt Mary always seemed happy; she expected our visit. That bus with the billboards on its ceiling would return us to Oley and head to Boyertown. 1967? I don't know if that bus service operated for years or not." *Submitted by Eloise Fisher.*

"Now understand, living on the farm, we enjoyed hearing anything happening up in town (Oley). Joey Brill had a monkey (that in itself was awesome), but the monkey got loose and days later, Joey came to the conclusion that, if the monkey didn't want to come home again or if he had gotten so lost with no sightings from anyone, he'd never see his monkey again. That was it and life went on for us kids, and I did some re-evaluation of living up in town. Wow, pigs getting out, steers running loose, horses slipping through the fence, a stray dog, but I daydreamed of a monkey sitting up in a tree maybe on Water Street would be understandable; on the other hand, down my way, with 5 miles of mostly open fields till my house, you figure, I'd NEVER see the monkey and that this was an outstanding news report." *Submitted by Eloise Fisher.*

"Serving sauerkraut Thursday night at the Oley Fair in the former bingo building. Ham and string beans was served on Friday night." *Submitted by Mary Williams.*

"Going for ice cream at Stapleton's Store on Covered Bridge Road." *Submitted by Mary Williams.*

"Many dirt roads in Oley Township." *Submitted by Mary Williams.*

The Oley Valley
I remember when…

"Going to Yerger's Store in Pleasantville to buy barrel molasses." *Submitted by Mary Williams.*

"Marching in the Oley High School Band on New Year's Day. We would go to the hotels in the school district and play. Afterward we would be invited in for a soda. I couldn't wait to go in the hotel to get warm. Mr. Stauffer, the principal, was chaperone." *Submitted by Mary Williams.*

"Husking corn using horse drawn wagons." *Submitted by Mary Williams.*

"My mother always baked one day a week usually on a Friday. We always made two different kinds of breakfast cakes (4 each of either AP cakes, shoo-fly pie or funny cakes), a layer cake, fruit pies, and if pie dough was left over, a milk pie. Laundry was always done on a Monday unless it rained." *Submitted by Mary Williams.*

"A coal man delivering coal and an ash man picking up the coal ashes." *Submitted by Clair Williams.*

"Ice cream was delivered in a horse drawn wagon." *Submitted by Clair Williams.*

"Our bakery man, Bill Hains, always had samples for children. My mother used the waxed bread wrappers to wrap our lunch sandwiches." *Submitted by Clair Williams.*

"An IGA grocery store was located where the Weis gas pumps are today." *Submitted by Clair Williams.*

"Dr. Grim sterilized needles and used them on the next patient needing a shot. He always dispensed pills and also made house calls." *Submitted by Clair Williams.*

"A sprinkler head was added to a Coke bottle and filled with water to sprinkle clothes while ironing." *Submitted by Bob Lesko.*

"Making apple butter over an open fire in a big black kettle." *Submitted by Darlene Dillon.*

"Watching my grandmother making soap over an open fire in a big copper kettle." *Submitted by Darlene Dillon.*

"Watching my grandfather butchering beef and pork in the winter season." *Submitted by Darlene Dillon.*

"Using a bamboo pole to chase young chickens out of the trees and into the chicken house for the night." *Submitted by Darlene Dillon.*

"Years ago the different telephone exchanges began with words. Ours, at Yellow House, was MUrdock. You had to dial the first two letters and then the numbers." *Submitted by Judi Merkel.*

"I remember going to school in an orange bus driven by either Hunter Clouser or Woody Rothenberger." *Submitted by Eugene Richard.*

"I remember all the old trees on Main Street." *Submitted by Eugene Richard.*

"I remember playing ball in my father's cow pasture and using you know what as the bases!" *Submitted by Eugene Richard.*

"I remember having classes in the bingo building and Mr. Lesko as my teacher." *Submitted by Eugene Richard.*

Photo Identification

We need your help! Are you able to identify any of these photos? If so, please call Mary Ellen Lash at (610) 987-6414, Doug Wegman at (610) 944-8437, or Doris Lorah at (610) 987-6167. Or, you may email us at OVHA@oleyvalleyheritage.org.

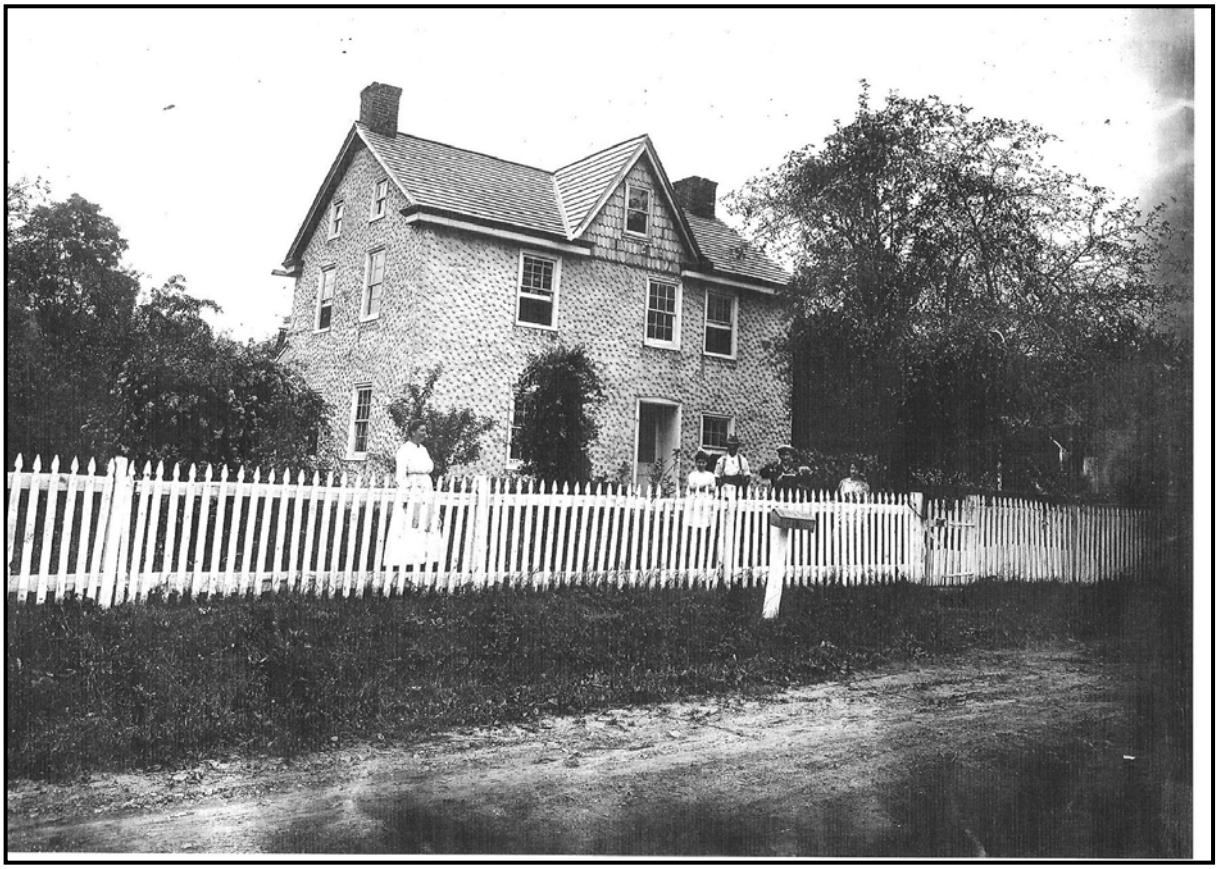


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Photo 2

Photo 3

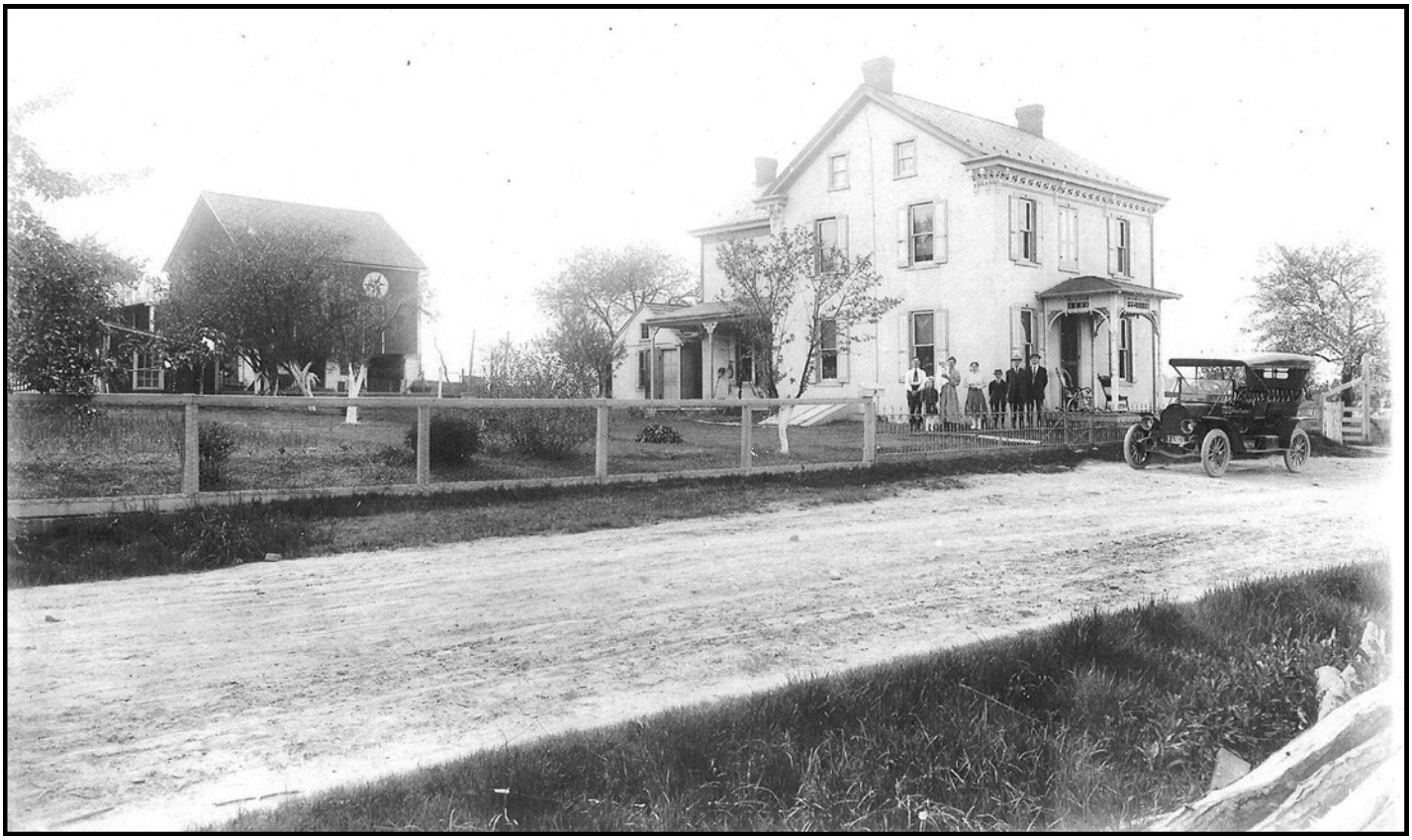

Photo 4

OLEY VALLEY
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
P O Box 401
Oley, PA 19547-0401

Membership

Time to renew your membership! If you received this newsletter, you are a member of the Oley Valley Heritage Association or are an organization that supports our cause.

Membership runs on a calendar year from January to December. Any membership dues that we receive after the Oley Fair will be applied to the next year membership year. So, if you paid your dues after the Oley Fair this year, your 2013 membership is paid.

What do you receive for your membership?

- Two newsletters per year mailed to your home.
- Two free programs per year historical in nature and related to the Oley Valley.
- The opportunity to support an organization dedicated to the historical, artistic and cultural heritage of the Oley Valley.

Please consider renewing your membership. A membership envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Also, if you know of someone who'd like to join, please invite them to our November program, or let us know and a membership envelope will be mailed to them.

OVHA Board Members:
Darlene Dillon, *President*
Steve Fisher, *Vice President*
Judith Merkel, *Secretary*
Nicola Miller, *Treasurer*

Patricia DeGrazia
Lucille "Susie" Harvan
Mary Ellen Lash
Robert Lesko
Doris Lorah
Margaret McCloskey
Eugene Richard
Richard Shaner
Doug Wegman
Mary Williams
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