Oley Valley Heritage Association

NEWSLETTER

November, 2013

Oley Valley Heritage Association
welcomes

Mark D. Grim, Jr.,

an Oley native, who will portray

Major General John F. Hartranft, a Civil War Hero

Some of his accomplishments include:

- Awarded the Medal of Honor after the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)
- Participated in numerous battles and brevetted Major General by General Grant
- Oversaw the imprisonment of 8 individuals charged in the Lincoln assassination conspiracy and oversaw the hanging of 4 of them
- Served as PA Auditor General and as PA Governor
- Organized the PA National Guard

Everyone is invited to attend!

The program is FREE and membership is not required.

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

Title:	**"Major General John F. Hartranft: Soldier and Pennsylvania Statesman"**
When:	Monday, Nov. 18, 2013 at 7:00 pm
Where:	Oley Fair Centre Building 26 Jefferson Street, Oley, PA

Complimentary light refreshments will be provided after the program.

www.oleyvalleyheritage.org

30th Anniversary

Our 30th Anniversary Celebration that was held on April 20, 2013 in the Oley Fair Centre Building was a success. Approximately 130 people attended. Here are some photos from the event.

Waiting for our guests to arrive.

Each place setting looked like this.

Our 30th Anniversary cake created by students from the Berks Career & Technology Center's East Campus under the direction of Chef Pierre.

State Senator Judy Schwank presented OVHA with state recognition for its accomplishments. Phoebe Hopkins and Darlene Dillon accepted the document.

Eugene Richard served as Master of Ceremonies.

We had quite a crowd come to this event.

Phoebe Hopkins spoke on how Oley Township became listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Zachary Pyle spoke on how many of our landmarks remain today.

There was a large display of photos for everyone to see.

OVHA's 30th Anniversary Ornaments created by Clay on Main.

There was a display of one-room school house photos and items used at that time.

The OVHA Board of Directors. Seated from left to right: Mary Williams, Richard Shaner, Darlene Dillon, Alan Yerger. Standing from left to right: Lucille "Susie" Harvan, Margaret McCloskey, Doris Lorah, Doug Wegman, Judith Merkel, Eugene Richard, Steve Fisher. Absent: Patricia DeGrazia, Mary Ellen Lash, Robert Lesko.

In Remembrance

It is with deep sadness, that we report the deaths of two of our board members.

Robert J. Lesko
Dec. 13, 1937 - May 5, 2013
Bob served as President of OVHA for many years.

Alan W. Yerger
April 11, 1940 - May 25, 2013

Bob and Alan will be greatly missed.

New Treasurer

The Oley Valley Heritage Association has a new treasurer. Debra Pook, President of Pook & Pook, was approved by the Board of Directors as a Board Member and then Treasurer on May 20, 2013. Debra and her husband, Ron, restored the Peters' homestead on Mud Run Road and currently reside there. Debra's position on the board was previously held by Nicola Miller.

New Board Member

Elizabeth Magovern was also approved to be a member of the Board of Directors on September 16, 2013. Ms. Magovern is an attorney in the law firm Hartman Shurr and lives in Exeter Township with her son. When renovations are completed, she will reside on the Sacred Oak Farm with her fiancé, Christopher Hartman. Elizabeth will replace the position previously held by Alan Yerger. We welcome both members to the board.

Vacancy

Would you be interested in being a member of our Board? We have a vacancy and would like to get it filled. If so, please call Darlene Dillon at (610) 944-9503.

Election of Directors

In accordance with the OVHA bylaws, the annual membership meeting will be held on November 18, 2013 prior to our program. The agenda includes the election of directors for a term of three years. Those directors up for election include: Patricia DeGrazia, Darlene Dillon, Judith Merkel, Lucille Harvan, and Elizabeth Magovern. 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 18th meeting.

Mission Statement

The Oley Valley Heritage Association is dedicated to promoting education, publishing information and encouraging preservation of those subjects that reflect the heritage of the Oley Valley.

Oley Fair

The OVHA created a booth entitled *Moo-ve On Thru The Years* in keeping with the fair theme of *Moo-ve on over to the 67th annual Oley Valley Community Fair.* We spoke to many old and new friends. Here are some photos for those who didn't get to see our booth.

Thank You

The Board would like to thank Leon Rhoads and Rockland Signs for creating our new Oley Valley Heritage Association sign that was on display in our booth.

Membership Renewal

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.

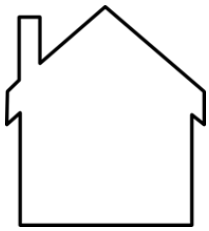
Membership runs on a calendar year from January to December. Any membership dues that we receive after the Oley Fair will be applied to the next year membership year. So, if you paid your dues after the Oley Fair this year, your 2014 membership is paid.

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. If you have access to a computer, a membership form is also available for printing on our website, www.oleyvalleyheritage.org.

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.

Photo Archives

We need your help!

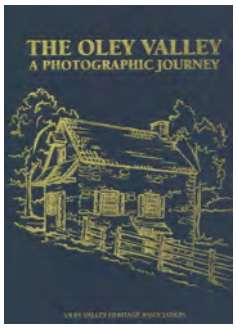
We're still in the process of collecting photos of the Oley Valley from the 1950s and earlier. If you have any, know of someone who has photos, or if someone you know has passed away and left photos, please do not throw them away. We're looking for any photos from the Oley Valley. That area would consist 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.

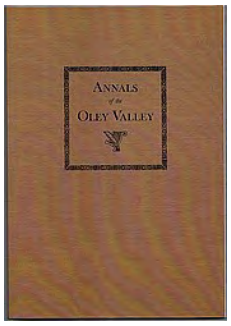
Items for Sale—Great Christmas Gifts!

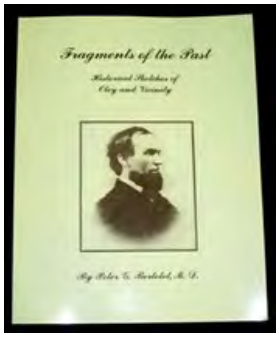
Books:

- ***The Oley Valley: A Photographic Journey*** **$35** (includes tax)
- ***Annals of the Oley Valley*** by Rev. P.C. Croll, D.D. **$22** (includes tax)
- ***Fragments of the Past*** by Dr. Peter G. Bertolet **$20** (includes tax)

30th Anniversary Ornament $15 (includes tax)







ITEMS
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT:

- Christa's Country Creations, Oley
- Charming Country Crafts, Oley
- Evelyn & Harriette's, Pleasantville
- Riverview Nursery, Pricetown Road
- www.oleyvalleyheritage.org

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 remember my grandmother cleaning a pig's small intestines by scraping them with a table knife on a board in a tube of water. The clean intestines were used to make sausage." *Submitted by Darlene Dillon.*

*"*I remember doing my homework on the kitchen table with a kerosene lamp for light." *Submitted by Darlene Dillon.*

"Every Saturday we polished our shoes." *Submitted by Darlene Dillon.*

*"*A number of residents of Oley today remember when Main Street was unpaved… when meat and milk and baked goods were brought around in horse-drawn wagons… when the street was tree-lined and every yard had a fence around it… when cattle were driven down Main Street and the trees had to be protected with wooden guards to prevent them from stripping the bark. People also remember the Reading-Boyertown trolley which had three stations near the village along the Legion grove." *Taken from page 11 of the booklet "Oley Valley Heritage Festival June 18, 1983."*

*"*My grandfather, William Aulenbach, was the conductor of the first trolley to the Oley Valley and Boyertown." *Submitted by Dorothy R. Moyer.*

"I remember my parents having a garden at the farm with all the good vegetables, especially tomatoes. Those are the best years of my life growing up." *Submitted by Dorothy R. Moyer.*

"I remember going with my grandmother to feed the chickens and get the eggs. She always gave me the cracked ones." *Submitted by Dorothy R. Moyer.*

"I remember the butchering days which no longer is seen by many children. My parents helped." *Submitted by Dorothy R. Moyer.*

"I remember going with my grandfather in his old truck to the Cleaver Creamery to deliver milk. I would write the amounts in the books. We went to my grandparents during the summer for weeks, also every weekend." *Submitted by Dorothy R. Moyer.*

"I remember and can still see myself going with my Aunt Bertha to take the cows in the fields to eat and take a blanket and umbrella." *Submitted by Dorothy R. Moyer.*

Another Great Christmas Gift

Collectibles $15 (includes tax)

DeBenneville Barn

Oley Valley Inn

Hunter Bank Barn

Fisher Home

Knabb-Bieber Mill

Collectibles only available for purchase at Christa's Country Creations, Oley and on our website: www.oleyvalleyheritage.org.

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

Visit our new website!

www.oleyvalleyheritage.org

Full of amazing photos of the Oley Valley and information on Oley Valley Heritage Association.

Please look at our new website. If you do not have the ability to do so or if you do not own a computer, please ask your children, grandchildren or friends to show it to you. You will be glad that you did.

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

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

Patricia DeGrazia
Lucille "Susie" Harvan
Mary Ellen Lash
Doris Lorah
Elizabeth Magovern
Margaret McCloskey
Eugene Richard
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