



SHARPSVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Matt Paxton is regularly featured on the A&E show *Hoarders* and is author of the recent book *Keep the Memories, Lose the Stuff: Declutter, Downsize, and Move Forward with Your Life*. While few of us suffer from hoarding disorder, most of us will admit we have too much stuff. (Or, in the words of the wit John Hodgman, the difference between a hoard and a collection is a display case.)

The thrust of Paxton's advice is how to deal with sentiment we attach to objects and to make it easier to let go. A move may bring urgency to one's need to downsize, especially if we find out our kids don't want our stuff. (For many this problem is compounded when it's not just an accumulation of a lifetime to sort through but items inherited from our parents and grandparents as well.)

The Historical Society is often presented with items—most of which help us tell Sharpsville's story. Other items, while old, don't have a particular connection with the town, and we must politely decline. (After all, the Historical Society doesn't want to end up as "Sharpsville's attic.") Two recent donations illustrate what makes the something worthy of inclusion in our archives. A scrapbook we received contains a number of clippings from newspapers—generally from the 1890s to the 1910s. The clippings are not of local interest; instead, they are of poetry, religious sentiments, and illustrations of famous persons. What adds interest, however, are the pages used for some of the scrapbook—ledger entries from 1872 from "Sharpsville Mills." While business ledgers are not always something we are looking for, the age of this book, and its reference to the lumber sold to various local customers of the time, make it something we want to keep. "Sharpsville Mills" is, in all likelihood, Robinson & Cooke's planing mill which stood along the river near the Old Sharpsville Furnace.

Another recent donation, also a scrapbook, reuses a 1936 wallpaper sample book. While anyone interested in the style of the era will be intrigued by the color palette and motifs of the samples, they have nothing in particular to do with Sharpsville. The items pasted within are what makes it relevant to the history of Sharpsville. They certainly aren't chronicles of momentous events; instead, they are mementos of life here, especially from the vantage of its teen-age creator, Ella Flynn. Included are programs from high school plays, a dance card, a menu from McFarland's Pharmacy soda fountain, and photos of classmates. Pasted in as well are clippings about Sharpsville sports, basketball game score sheets, mementos from parties and dances, ticket stubs, and items—such as a Lucky Strike cigarette—with a friend's name beneath, seeming to reference inside jokes.

We believe that family items should remain in the family. But if keepsakes can't be passed on, please consider donating them to the Historical Society. Again, we aren't looking for what is merely old, or photos of just family members, but for items that give a glimpse of life in Sharpsville in years past. Knowing that some of your "stuff" would have a good home, we hope, will help you keep the memories.

Two-Night Getaway

CAESARS CASINO

Windsor, Ontario

July 11th-12th-13th

Upcoming Events

GAMBLING SPREE BUS TRIPS

Also this Spring

Seneca Allegany Casino, April 20th

MGM Northfield Casino, May 24th

Two-Night Getaway

**SOARING EAGLE
CASINO**

With optional side trip to
Frankenmuth, Mich.

October 3rd-4th-5th

Book your Reservations Now! Call 724-813-9199 for info

Around Town

Main Street

In our last newsletter, we featured selections from the “Around Town” binders Jim Lawton bequeathed to the Historical Society. Here we are focusing on Main Street—with the color photos taken in 2000—along with his notes on the prior and present (at that time) occupants. We’ve added some updates as well. There are many surprises in what used to be in familiar buildings we often drive by.



Corner of 10th Street & W. Main Street

Falvo's Grocery Store
Pezzatta Meat & Grocery Store
Albert D. Fortines Market, 1951
Now apartments



970 W. Main Street

Michael Kuliper, Confectionary Store
Patricia Crosby Beauty Salon, ca. 1963
Krissann's Styling Salon, 2005

Upcoming Events



A play in two acts and 45
phone calls

Saturday June 10th 7:30 p.m.
Sunday June 11th 2:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
600 E. State Street, Sharon, Pa.

Tickets \$20

Includes beverages and a Southern dessert

Available at Mehler Insurance or sharpsvillehistorical.org

*"A little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men"
(Used with permission of Wm. Shakespeare)*

HARKEN YE

And Make Haste to Prepare for the Big Doin's

The Ladies Auxiliary of the B. I. R.

Extend a most cordial invitation to you and your best fellow, or
someone else's fellow, to meet with them and make merry

After Supper, OCTOBER 6th, 1904

...at their...

Leap Year Rubæ Dance

in the Buhl Rifles' Loft, which is south of the main road of the village
near the Steam Car Line and in the neighborhood of
Mike Hromiak's Sole Repairing establishment

Prizes will not be given for the Rube with the longest beard and the female
Rubess with the largest feet. The first prize will be a load of coal and the second
prize a keg of nails. The prizes are at Hank McCurdy's tonsorial emporium.

Those not caring to dance may indulge in such ex-citing games as Post Of-
fice, London Bridge, Button, Button, whose got the Button, etc. Some of the
most comical cut ups in the village will act up and say funny sayings.

Red pop and ginger bread at the country store and perhaps a letter at the postoffice

Preceding the Terpsichorean festivities Matilda Jane Thomas will appear
in the delightful military spectacle, most respectfully dedicated to the warrior
bold, Capt. Tommy Price, entitled "He who fights and runs away may live to
fight another day," or "it is better to have run and lost than never to have run
at all."

During the intermission Bedelia Godfrey will inform you of "What the Woggle-
Bug said." While the crops have been kinder slim, you can't afford to miss this
reunion and as Shakespeare said, Laugh and the world laughs with you, weep
and you weep by your lonesome. It is to laugh and grow fat.

Miss Ophelia Tabitha Lewis will take care of Uncle Tom. Mary Priscilla Lands-
downe will preserve order, and some tomatoes. Last, but not least, Aunt Saman-
tha Kamerer will meet your smiling face and assess you 50c, to help keep up the
township roads.

The American Orchestra will play "Rosin the Bow," "Arkansaw Traveler,"
"The Long Dog," "Miss McCloud's Reel" and the tunes your father used to fiddle,
as well as the newest, up-to-the-minute. The fiddling will commence at 8.

While it refers to an event in Sharon, this item recently came into our possession and is worth sharing.

The cover of this invitation announced in large, bold letters: "Ye Rube Dance, Nuff Said, You're Expected".

The inside jokes and slang from over a century ago will likely remain indecipherable.

The theme of the dance appears to have been at the mocking expense of rural folk; though, perhaps as with Sadie Hawkins dances decades later, with genuine enjoyment of at least stereotypical country ways.

B.I.R. is Buhl Independent Rifles. Formed in response to President McKinley's call for volunteers during the Spanish-American War, the B.I.R. was an independent militia and civic organization. Largely funded by Frank Buhl, they drilled weekly and hosted a wide range of events from their armory. That building would later become the Girls' Buhl Club.

As often the case, a Ladies' Auxiliary was formed. Mike Hromiak's shoe repair and Hank McCurdy's barber-shop were apparently well-known, but humble establishments in downtown Sharon.

Collections update

Carl & Janice Kelly donated a rare half-pint milk bottle from the Homestead Dairy, Sharpsville.

Sandy & Bob Ridgeway donated a scrapbook, with the 1872 ledger entries described on page one, as well as containing the Harken Ye invitation above.

Luann Salaga donated two letters to Sharpsville's Don Hittle thanking him for his service in the 1960 Presidential campaign, one signed by the mayor Philadelphia and one signed by President-elect Kennedy.

Open House

As a reminder the Historical Society is open
the first and third Saturday of the month
from 1:00p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Come see the unique architecture of our historic building and a large display of our artifacts, documents, and photos of Sharpsville history.

With Gratitude

A significant donation that will allow us to continue the restoration of our historic headquarters was made by:

Ralph & Carol Mehler

We also received a generous donation from:

Sharpsville High School Class of 1953

Contact Us

website: www.sharpsvillehistorical.org
email: sharpsvillehistorical@hotmail.com

see our website for officers' phone numbers

Headquarters: 131 N. Mercer Ave., Sharpsville, Pa.

Mailing address: 955 Forest Lane, Sharpsville, Pa. 16150

Meetings are held the First Monday of the Month at
7:00pm at our headquarters

Around Town, Main Street, cont'd



2 Seventh Street

Victor & Josephine Palazzo
Grocery Store, until 1971.

641 W. Main Street

William's Café, shortly after Repeal
The Ranch House, 1964
Destroyed by fire, 1980



600 block, Main Street

In the area occupied by the plant annex once
were:

George & Caterina Rosati Grocery Store
Samuel & Annie Faber Meat Market
Maurice Stigliano Grocery Store
Home of John & Sophia Taikish
Home of Benjamin & Antonia Nerone

The office building of the Sharpsville Boiler
Works (renamed Sharpsville Steel Fabricators
in 1938) was built in 1918

Office of Utensco, 1988

Office of Sharpville Container Corp., 1991



603 W. Main Street

Herman Gelb, men's clothing, 1930

George Achenbach's Grocery, 1935. It was later run by his son Karl, who later put in a self-service laundry there, which operated until 1967

Augie DelFratte Barber Shop, 1968

Dom Bucciarelli Barber Shop, 2022

(Right) Achenbach Grocery, Price list, September 1939

Phone 8.	ACHENBACH'S GROCERY	To Deliver
Fast roast	2/23¢	Beef Roasts 27¢
Sue-sheen C.	2/28¢	Country Sausage 28¢
Matches, 100	19¢	
Pop corn	2/19¢	Potatoes, peck 29¢
Marshmallow	19¢	
Scouring 100	3/13¢	Cantaloupes 2/19¢
A-1 Solution	15¢	Barlett Pears 5¢/25¢
Tea Balls		Peaches 6/25¢
Green or Black 1¢		Lettuce 10¢
W. D. Coffee 23¢		Sweet Potatoes 6/25¢
Pumpkin 1ge.	2/25¢	
		10 qt. Pails 25¢



6th Street

The building behind Augie DelFratte's barber shop was built around 1906. Occupied by Reichart Barber Shop which operated 1903-1912. (Right) interior view of Reichart Barber Shop.

Now apartments.



Around Town, Main Street, cont'd.



34 N. 6th Street

Erme's Restaurant, 1937

T.J.'s Lounge, 1973

Sharpsville Inn, 1975

The Sharpsville Inn was destroyed in an explosion of an underground gas main in 1985. The owners, Red & Johanna Stanton were killed.



500 W. Main Street

Parson's – Muster Gravestone Works, 1926

The Topp's Bar, 1942

The Five Hundred Bar, Cal Bateman & Mike Bornes, 1957

Sabella's Grille, 1962

The Wooden Nickel, 1979

Danny's Bar & Grille, ca. 1982

Chay's, 1986

Muscarella's, 1992

Sharpsville Beer Distributor, 1949 to 1990, when Chay's expanded into the space (the left half of the building)



412 W. Main Street

Edward A. Cattron Car Repair Garage

James Holland gas station

Tim Holland, Pontiac dealership, 1941

Gordon Ward Auto Garage and Frigidaire Appliances, 1954. (Gordon Ward continued to operate wholesale gasoline sales in the rear until 1968.)

Angela's Pizza, 1967

Pete Joyce's grocery store, 1968 (after his Isaly's Dairy Store burned down)

Bud's Dairy, 1974

Vi's Dairy, 1981

D&I Firearms & Sporting Goods, 1983

Now Valley Silk Screening, 1988