

# Oley Valley Heritage Association NEWSLETTER



November, 2011

## SPEND AN EVENING WITH MOUNTAIN MARY Monday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m.



**Tracy Toth** of Pike Township, an actress and small-scale farmer, will portray Mountain Mary at our November program.

Mountain Mary or Anna Maria Jung/Young, who lived during the late 1700s and early 1800s, grew medicinal herbs and was known for her ability to heal. Join us as we relive what we know about this local historical figure.

Everyone is invited to attend!

The program is **FREE** and membership is not required.

**When:** Monday, November 28, at 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Oley Fair Centre Building  
26 Jefferson Street, Oley, PA

A brief General Membership Meeting will be held prior to the program.  
Light refreshments will be provided after the program.

We will also be selling our books and collectibles and taking memberships after the program.  
Payment by cash or check, please. No credit cards.

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### Revised OVHA Bylaws

The Bylaws of the Oley Valley Heritage Association were read and revised by a committee of Board members during the winter of 2010. The changes that were made reflect current practices and include new technology used in conducting the business of the Board. They were then presented to the entire Board of Directors on February 21, 2011 and were unanimously approved.

Copies of the revised bylaws are available for perusal by our general membership at our planned programs throughout the year and at the General Membership Meeting on November 28, 2011 whereby all members present will vote on accepting the bylaws as prepared and approved by the Board of Directors.

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### Red Barns in the Oley Valley

Since the theme of the Oley Fair this year was Paint the Fair Red, the board made a decision to create a booth on "Red Barns in the Oley Valley." Clair and Mary Williams were responsible for taking photos of various red barns and what a great job they did! People really seemed to enjoy viewing them. Also participating in this committee were Steve Fisher, Alan Yerger and Doris Lorah. A sign for our booth was created by Robert Lesko.

## Membership

Time to renew your membership! If you received this newsletter, you are a member of the Oley Valley Heritage Association. At the June 20, 2011 meeting, the Board of Directors voted for an increase in dues. Please note the updated amounts on the membership renewal envelope enclosed.

What do you receive for your membership?

- Two newsletters per year mailed to your home.
- Two 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. 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.

### Home for OVHA

The OVHA is looking for 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. If you have any ideas of how this could be accomplished, please contact one of our board members. We are eager to hear from you!

### OVHA Contributions

In what ways has the OVHA recently contributed to the historical, artistic and cultural heritage of the Oley Valley?

- Creation of our book, *"The Oley Valley: A Photographic Journey,"* and reprinting of the *"Annals of the Oley Valley."*
- Donations to the Oley Valley School District to promote our heritage.
- Financial support for rebinding old and fragile school district records.
- Distributing of our Landmarks brochure.
- Displaying enlarged vintage photos in the Oley Post Office and in the Oley Township Municipal Building.
- Displaying board members' artifacts in the OVHA display cases in the Supervisors' meeting room at the Oley Township Municipal Building.
- Providing free programs historical in nature and related to the Oley Valley.

Lesko's Corner...



### New Collectible

We're adding a new collectible! The Hunter Bank Barn will be available to purchase after Thanksgiving. This collectible, as well as our 5 others, can be purchased for \$15 at Christa's Creations located at the intersection of Water Street and Stitzer Road in Oley Township. If you'd like to order and have it mailed to you, please see our website at [www.oleyvalleyheritage.org](http://www.oleyvalleyheritage.org).



## Resignation

Jane LeVan announced her resignation from the Board at the June 20, 2011 board meeting. The Board reluctantly accepted her resignation. Jane, a long time resident of the Oley Valley, was on the board from its inception and played an important role in getting Oley Township listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

On October 10, 2011 the Board held a retirement dinner for Jane at the Yellow House Hotel.

## New Board Member

At our July 18, 2011 meeting, Doris Lorah was nominated to be a member of the Board for the balance of Jane LeVan's term, being until December 31, 2011. Dori served on the book committee and has been a long time active member of the OVHA. Her husband is Ned Lorah and they reside in Lobachsville. We welcome Dori to the Board.

## Events attended by OVHA in 2011

Here is a list of where we've been in 2011. It's been a very busy year!

### Sold our items at the following events:

- Oley Library Book Sale, April 8 & 9
- Antiques in the Valley, June 16, 17, 18
- Kutztown Folk Festival, July 2 – 10
- Oley Peach Festival, Aug. 13
- Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County Open House, Sept. 24
- Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen 2011 Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Festival at Kutztown University, Oct. 29 & 30

### Attended:

Oley Fair booth on "Red Barns in the Oley Valley," Sept. 15, 16, 17

## Berks County Living Magazine

Look for an article about our book, "*The Oley Valley: A Photographic Journey*," in the December issue of Berks County Living Magazine. We are grateful to the magazine for helping us spread the word about our historic photographic book of the Oley Valley.

## Photo Archives

Do you have any photos of the Oley Valley from the 1950s and earlier? The area consists 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.

## Description of the Hunter Bank Barn Collectible

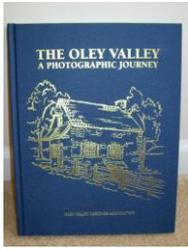
Located along Covered Bridge Road in Oley Township, the Hunter Bank Barn was erected by George Focht in 1793 according to its date stone. It was built on the John Hunter plantation along side the 1768 Germanic Georgian mansion which also served as a wayside inn. The barn's brick arched stable doors without a Swiss type forebay for protection is an English feature as well as the huge brick arched draft door. This is a rare threshing floor feature which allows a draft to flow through the barn while the farmer is threshing grain. Dr. and Mrs. Donald Shelley restored the Hunter Bank Barn circa 1970. The Shelley's were exceptional people, very much concerned with preserving America's Colonial architecture. After retiring as President of the Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Michigan in 1976, the Shelley's settled with their lifelong collection into the Hunter Germanic Georgian mansion mentioned above.

### **OVHA Board Members:**

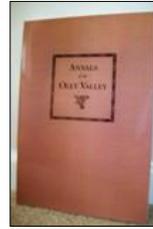
Darlene Dillon, *President*  
Steve Fisher, *Vice President*  
Judith Merkel, *Secretary*  
Nicola Miller, *Treasurer*

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

## Great Christmas Gifts!



*The Oley Valley:  
A Photographic Journey*  
\$35 includes tax



*Annals of the Oley Valley*  
\$22 includes tax

### OVHA Collectibles:

\$15 includes tax



DeBenneville Barn



Oley Valley Inn



Johan DeTurk House



Fisher Home



Knabb-Bieber Mill

New Collectible for Christmas – Hunter Bank Barn  
(Available after Thanksgiving at Christa's Creations or on our website.)

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