



SHARPSVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

The grand celebration to mark Sharpville's 150th Anniversary will soon be here! The Historical Society has their own schedule of events, listed to the right. The Borough's 150th Committee, though, is sponsoring the main events, listed below. Plan to participate. Past anniversaries have brought the town together. We hope the 150th celebration will bring long-lasting memories to you and your family.

Sharpville 150th Anniversary

BIRTHDAY BASH DINNER DANCE

May 4th doors open 6:30 St. Bart's Center

The music you remember from the 50s to Today

Featuring 2nd Avenue Project Band

Dinner Stations & Beverages

Prizes will be given to the best dressed in your era!

\$30/person \$200 for a table of 8

Tickets at: Borough Building, Joni's Styling Salon,

Lori Rollinson Beauty Shop, Sharpville VFW



GRAND CELEBRATION

Three days June 20-21-22

Town Park at Shenango & Walnut and adjacent areas

Thursday & Friday 4:00pm to 10:00pm

Saturday 1:00pm to 11:00pm

*Craft and Food Vendors with Kids' rides and activities
all three days*

Thursday: 2nd Avenue Project Band 6:30 to 8:30

Friday: Soundbite Band 6:30 to 8:30

5K Walk/Run 6:00 to 7:00

Saturday: Half Marathon race 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Parade 11:00 a.m. Ridge, 7th & Main

Music starting at 1:00—Italian Music with DJ Sam
Tonelli, The Side Effects, FX Project, and Pipe Dreams

Fireworks at dusk

Watch for further details and updates

Upcoming Events

Tour of historic Riverside Cemetery

Learn about Sharpville's cemetery and the interesting lives of some who are buried here. Saturday, May 18th
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Enter at the North Gate.

Rain-date Sunday, May 19th

Walking Tour of Shenango Street

Learn about the majestic homes, shops, and other interesting places—with some still here and others long-gone along one of Sharpville's main thoroughfares. Though the two-block walk is short, it will be long on the information you may be surprised to hear about your town.

Time and date in June to be announced. Meet at the
Town Park.

Self-Guided Tour of Sharpville

For a more extensive tour of interesting sites and areas in Sharpville, we are publishing a guide that can be walked and/or driven. See page four for details.



GAMBLING SPREE BUS TRIPS

Hollywood at the Meadows Casino, May 22nd

Seneca Allegany Casino, June 27th

Two-night Getaway to Seneca Niagara Casino,
September 17, 18, 19th

Call 724-813-9199 for details

Items for Sale

With Sharpsville's upcoming Sesquicentennial, many have asked if we would have available items to remember the event and their hometown. We are proud to offer all new items for sale . . . plus some older items in our inventory

COMMEMORATIVE HISTORY OF SHARPSVILLE

Traces of Old Sharpsville

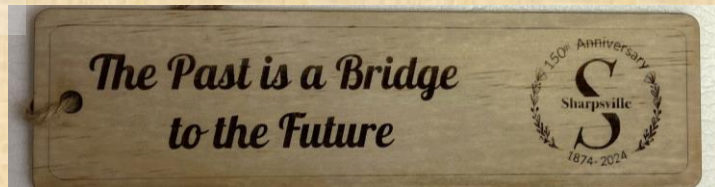
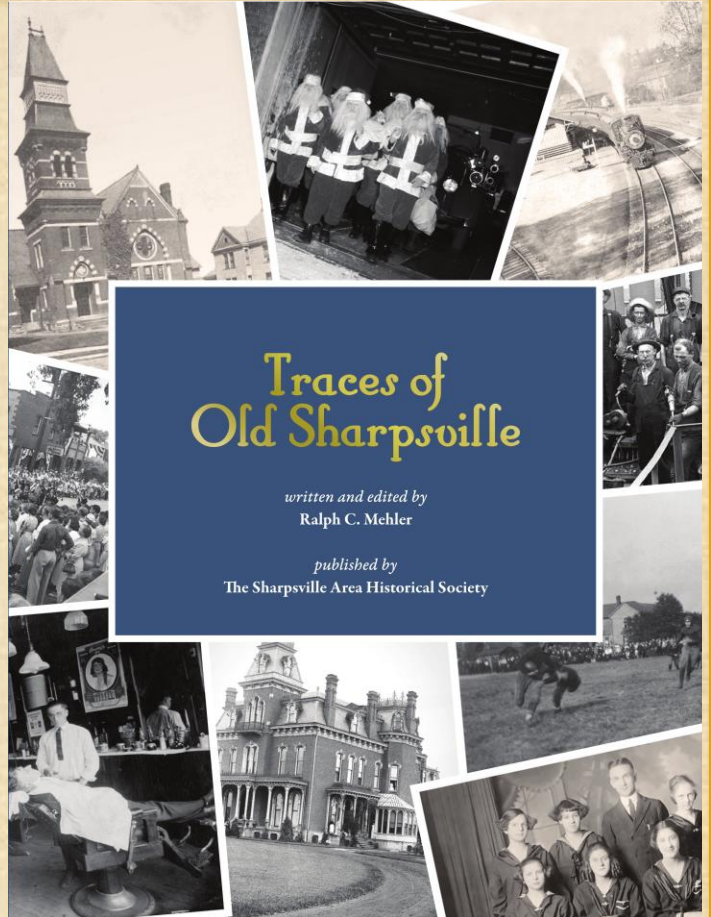
Though just a small town, Sharpsville has had an outsized influence on the American iron industry. This book tells that story, plus many more—the canal that gave the town its start, its railroads, the personalities who lived here, the churches and clubs, its ethnic heritage, sports heroes, long-gone landmarks and institutions, and the traditions that make Sharpsville unique. Events, whether of local note or part of national trends, are here recounted. More than just an account of town lore, this is a thoroughly researched book that gives the reader an insight into life here in years past, from a variety of perspectives. Anyone who lives in the Shenango Valley will find interest in these pages—as will someone who has since moved away but whose heart still remains here.

The short articles contained within this book are grouped into themed chapters. With many not-seen-before photos, it makes for an enjoyable and readable account of this little burg in times past.

\$40 Available at Sharpsville Borough Building, Alfredo Insurance, Sharpsville Floral, Joni's Styling Salon & Mehler Insurance. Also at SharpsvilleHistorical.org

Special Introductory Sale price of \$35, ending May 15th

The perfect complement to the book!
ENGRAVED WOOD BOOKMARKS \$5 EACH



CHARCUTERIE BOARDS WITH ENGRAVING OF HISTORIC SHARPSVILLE LANDMARKS

Jonas Pierce House also available

\$40 Along with the bookmarks, available at Sharpsville Borough Building, Alfredo Insurance, Sharpsville Floral, Joni's Styling Salon & Mehler Insurance. Also at SharpsvilleHistorical.org

Items for Sale

Our Santa Collection commemorates Sharpsville's unique 76-year tradition of Santa visiting every home with a porch light on prior to Christmas. The image is from a photo of one of the original signs leading into town (taken December 1987). These signs have been replaced twice since then, though neither are as iconic as the original.



T-shirts \$20 all sizes



Christmas Ornament \$15



Mugs, illustrated both sides \$15

We have recently received a new batch of our popular T-Shirts with a logo of the (now-departed) Kelly Road Bridge

T-Shirts with Historical Society Logo

SIZES S-M-L \$12; SIZES XL AND ABOVE \$15



Scenes of Old Sharpsville vols. I & II

DVDs EACH CONTAINING 100 CAPTIONED PHOTOS OF SHARPSVILLE IN YEARS PAST \$10 EA.

Natural Stone Drink Coasters

FEATURING LITHOGRAPHED SCENES OF OLD SHARPSVILLE \$4 EACH

BUY-A-BRICK

Please consider an "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" brick for a loved one.

4" x 8" bricks with three lines of inscription—\$75

8" x 8" bricks with six lines of inscription—\$125

The bricks will be placed in the town park.

CAT'S MEOW

ART PORTRAITS OF THE HISTORIC 1ST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OR THE JONAS PIERCE HOUSE \$10

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLIONS

FROM THE 1974 SHARPSVILLE CENTENNIAL \$5

Christmas Ornaments

FROM THE 1999 125TH \$1

This digital image of a postcard of the Jonas Pierce House was sold on E-bay before the Society was able to acquire the original. The white script at the bottom shows it to be one of the many postcards published by Clarence Harris, minister at the First Universalist Church here from 1905-09. It is an outstanding view of the Italianate mansion Jonas had built in 1868—here perhaps in its prime—and which has since then experienced various stages of neglect and renovation. It earned a listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. Of course, this view would now be obscured by the drugstore and the dentist's office, as its original yard would have extended to Mercer Avenue. Another item to note are the round windows on the third floor. These were replaced by square windows when that floor was remodeled in the 1940s to serve as apartments for officers stationed at Camp Reynolds. Window shutters, along with the second-floor balcony are other features that disappeared long ago. The building had been split up into six apartments but restoration as a single-family dwelling was started by Michael and Amy Lucas and later substantially completed by Petie Kelly and Jeremy Zipay. More recent owners have allowed it to fall into disrepair. It is currently for sale, and someone willing to devote the resources and attention to bring this architectural gem back to its full glory is desperately needed.



Upcoming Events

Self-Guided Tour of Sharpsville

Those coming here from out-of-town will find it especially useful, but even if you've lived here your whole life, there may be some surprises about the history behind some of our sites and buildings. It will be an expanded and updated version of past tours we have published. In June, a paper copy will be available at the Borough Building and online at Sharpsvillehistorical.org.

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

A Look Back

Jailbreak!

While there are arrests and illegal activities that escape mention in the local newspaper, Sharpsville has never been considered a hot-bed of crime. Though the town's citizens feel safe, whatever apprehensions that may linger today, in the mist of nostalgia, common thinking is that things were surely better in "the good ol' days." Yet these "good ol' days" did witness a higher level of crime, including more numerous murders. While the violent offender may have been placed in the county's custody, Sharpsville did have its own lock-up. It was located in the Borough Building, now Sharpsville Floral and Gift Shop. About the same size as Andy Griffith's Mayberry jail, Sharpsville Floral has preserved the facility for historic reasons. With that background, here is a 1914 account of a jailbreak.

JAIL DELIVERY IN SHARPSVILLE ARROUSES VALLEY

Police of Greenville and surrounding towns have been notified to be on the lookout for Thomas Fenton, of 207 Sharpsville street, who escaped from the Sharpsville jail Wednesday night. The delivery was effected with outside help.

Last Tuesday, Fenton was arraigned before Squire Turner on a complaint of his wife, charging him with assault and battery. He was sentenced to pay \$10 and costs or serve 90 days in Allegheny workhouse. He was unable to pay and was held in jail awaiting his removal to Allegheny this morning.

Assistant street commissioner, Joseph Auchter, on arrival at the city building this morning, noticed the window broken. Investigation showed that entrance had been effected during the night. An iron bar was used to smash the lock on the cell and the prisoner was liberated.

Fenton has a bad reputation and has been arrested several times. He gained considerable notoriety a few years ago when under arrest in Sharon, by swimming the Shenango river and escaping.

Fenton is married and has a wife and nine children. It developed during his trial in Sharpsville that he had only worked three weeks in the past year. He was a member of the "Erie" gang. He comes from a good family, of which he has always been the black sheep.

Fenton is 45 years old, smooth face of dark complexion, about 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs 175 pounds. He is a machinist by trade.



The jail still at Sharpsville Floral's building. Currently a storage room, though well-preserved (and perhaps an option to deal with late-paying customers).

Boundary Stones

The History of South Pymatuning Township booklet published in 1977 includes an intriguing account of overlooked artifacts from a long ago. Following is its description of the boundary markers found near the state line with Ohio.

Two hundred years ago when the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the area that is now South Pymatuning Township was virtually a wilderness. It was not until ten years later that the survey of the Western Boundary of Pennsylvania was completed. The land to the west of the boundary, now Ohio, was called Northwest Territory and was controlled by the Union confederation. The land east of the boundary was the territory of the Government of Pennsylvania.

When Andrew Porter and Alexander McClean completed the boundary survey to Erie in 1786, a vista was cleared through the forest twenty to thirty feet wide, and the surveyor used whatever stones were available for monuments. This resulted in irregular distances between the markers. In time this vista disappeared and many of the monuments could no longer be located. This resulted in many dis-satisfactions by the border residents until in the late 1870's a movement was started to survey the original boundary line.

After many negotiations between the two states a re-survey of the Western Boundary of Pennsylvania was started in 1881 at Lake Erie, the northern terminus of the line. According to the Joint Boundary Commission report of 1881 the markers of this survey were made of stone and consisted of two parts. One part was a solid cube of sandstone fifteen inches on a side and was called a monument. These monuments were to be placed on the line, two feet under the ground at intervals of one mile. The other part was called an index. It was a stone one foot square and three feet long which was placed on the monument when no highway was on the line.

Where it was impossible to place the index on the monument, it was placed twenty five feet east or west of the line. The inscription on the north face of the index indicated the number of miles south from Lake Erie followed by a capital M. The south face had the date 1881. The east face had the letter P, and the west side the letter O. If the index could not be placed on the line, the number 25F (F meaning feet) under the P, if in Ohio or under the O, if in Pennsylvania.

Four of six of the original 1881 Indexes along the line of present South Pymatuning Township have been located south of Orangeville. It is hope there are others that have not been lost in the past ninety five years.



This 1758 map shows the uncertain western boundary of colonial Pennsylvania (not to mention its expansive view of its northern border—and while we're at it, let's claim a little slice of Canada too). Penn's initial claim was 5° longitude west of his eastern border. During the Revolution, negotiations with Virginia (which had its own overlapping claims) led to the adoption of a straight line for the western border of Pennsylvania.



Two of the remaining boundary indexes that lie along Orangeville Road