

Welcome to Perry Valley Grange's

95th Anniversary Celebration



Friday, October 17, 2014

Perry Valley Grange Hall
Millerstown, PA

Tonight's Program

- Mistress of Ceremonies**..... Krista Pontius, Vice President
- Welcome** Bill Cameron, President
- Singing of National Anthem**
- Invocation**..... Olga Brookhart, Chaplain
- Catered Anniversary Dinner**
- Musical Entertainment**..... The Reeder Sisters (see next page)
- A Walk Down Memory Lane** Doug Bonsall
Pictures of our history to accompany the written narrative
- Introduction of Past Presidents (Masters)**
"The biggest achievement of the Grange during my term of office was....."
- Recognition of Long Time Members**..... Carol Gantt, Secretary
Presentation of 25-30-40-45-50 & 55 year certificates
- Remarks from Golden Sheaf Members (50 or more years of continuous membership)**
"My fondest memory of the Grange during my years of membership is....."
- Presentation of 2014 Raffle Proceeds to FFA Chapters** Renee Hetrick, Raffle Chair
- Awarding of Door Prizes**
- Benediction** Olga Brookhart, Chaplain

Special thanks to all who assisted in the preparation for this anniversary celebration, especially co-chairs Carol Rhoades and Barbara McMillen. The historical booklet and slide program were created by Doug Bonsall.

Meet Tonight's Entertainment

The Reeder Sisters



Our 95th anniversary program features musical entertainment by the Reeder Sisters – *Eddie of Ephrata, Marty of Duncannon and Kathy of Dauphin* – whose parents were both from western Perry County. Their versatile show consists of music from all eras with a unique harmony that only sisters can create. Their audiences particularly enjoy their renditions of music from the Andrew Sisters, the McGuire Sisters, country favorites, a couch of Broadway and patriotic medleys.

Grange Ideals

A good Grange member:

*Places faith in God,
Looks forward to the future,
Helps those in need, and
Is loyal to family, community and nation.*

Vision Statement

The Vision of Perry Valley Grange:

Foster an atmosphere where individuals can grow spiritually, intellectually and socially and, through that growth, improve themselves, their families, communities and the nation.

A Brief Look at 95 Years of Service (1919-2014)

The First Decade

On July 19, 1919, a group of persons met at Beaver's School in Perry Valley, Greenwood Township, Millerstown RD, to organize a local chapter of the Grange, also known as the Patrons of Husbandry. Eighty-six persons - 49 men and 37 women - would become charter members of Perry Valley Grange #1804. The organizing Deputy of the State Grange was William E. Raffensberger of Newport. The Grange met twice a month, usually at the Beaver's School. This building is still in existence today about 5 miles northeast of the present Grange Hall but it has been neglected for many years after serving as a slaughter house.

The minutes record discussion on the purchase or building of a Grange Hall as early as 1926 when a building in Millerstown was considered.



Beaver's School

Almost immediately the Grange set about to operate a cooperative buying program for farm supplies; from August 1919 through 1923 the Grange store was located at the home of Irvin and Annie Sarver in Perry Valley. (*Sarver descendants through their daughter Julia Sarver Bonsall have remained active in the Grange for four generations.*) Grange dues were \$1.50 annually and were recorded as being paid 37-1/2 cents each quarter. The secretary was voted a "fee of ten cents per meeting of actual service" but there is no record if this fee was ever paid or how long the practice may have continued. The practice of attending the funeral or viewing of a deceased member was noted as early as 1920.

The Grange was less than a year old when a committee was appointed to canvass the community for telephone service. In 1922 there is record of sponsoring a festival for the joint benefit of the Farm Bureau and the Pennsylvania State Grange; the grand sum of \$21.72 was earned for these causes. In 1923 the Grange contributed to the State Grange Dormitory Fund to build a women's residence on the campus of Penn State University in State College. The first mention of sending delegates to State Grange is recorded in 1922 when their expenses to the convention in Williamsport amount to \$15.85.

The Second Decade

In 1929 the Grange decided to hold one meeting per month, a practice that has continued to the present day. Throughout the 1930's meetings were held in various locations including Reward School and Ferrell's School. As membership dwindled during the Great Depression, meetings were moved to the homes of the faithful remaining members. These meetings were the social highlight for many of the rural citizens who attended. Spelling contests and debates were especially popular forms of entertainment and education.

Consider this question debated on February 12, 1930: *Which is the more serviceable around the home - a good dispositioned husband or plenty of modern labor saving devices?* (The records indicate the judges voted in favor of the husbands!) The roll call at the May 1939 meeting was *Why can't we have a Grange Hall?*



Reward School

The Fourth Decade

An organ was purchased by the Grange in 1934 for the use of the Reward School. The lecturer was sent for the first time to a state conference in 1934; in that same year plans were made for the first time to attend the Grangers' Picnic at Williams Grove, a practice that continued off and on for many years. The first recorded visitation among Granges of Perry County appears in 1936 when Perry Valley visited both Bucks Valley and Ickesburg Granges (both now defunct). As the decade ended, Perry Valley Grange would enter the lowest period in its history.

The Third Decade

Throughout the years of World War II, the Grange membership stood at only 27. A small group of faithful members kept the Grange alive with monthly meetings in their homes during this time.

Oyster suppers were very popular and were held for the members once or twice a year. The minutes of March 1947 record the sum of \$8.12 spent for oyster and crackers for supper that night. Despite its limited resources of people and money, the Grange voted in 1942 to assist with 4-H work in the area.

By the end of the 1940's membership was beginning to move upward and the Grange began holding its meetings regularly in the Ferrell's School. The first recorded anniversary celebration is the 30th birthday dinner and program held in 1949; surviving charter members were honored at that time.

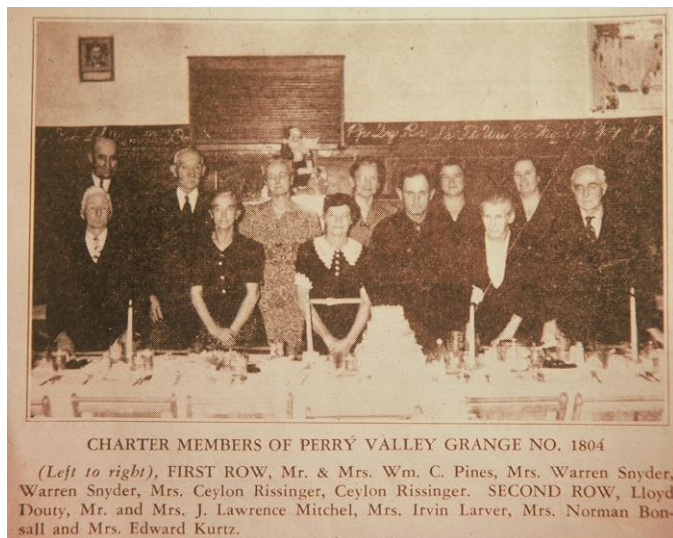
New life was breathed into Perry Valley Grange when a large class of new members was initiated in 1950. The world was changing and the Grange considered the question - *Will the larger school unit foster community interests?* A very innovative project for 1951 was the sponsorship of an electric demonstration in the Millerstown High School. In 1953 the Grange voted to enter the Community Service Contest, a practice that was to define the future direction of the organization.

A big step forward came in 1954 when the Grange made an agreement with the Presbyterian Church of Perry Valley for joint use of the former Ferrell's School as its permanent meeting place. The building has been purchased by the church from the Greenwood School District and became known as the Perry Valley Social Hall. The Grange assisted the church in furnishing and maintaining the building, including the addition of a kitchen. The Grange was incorporated in 1959.



Ferrell's School

Also in 1954 an exhibit was entered for the first time at the Juniata County Fair in Port Royal. Within a few years exhibits were also being taken to other fairs and the premiums earned were a major revenue source during the 1950's. These revenues helped to send Bill Cameron to National Grange in 1957 as a youth officer.



CHARTER MEMBERS OF PERRY VALLEY GRANGE NO. 1804

(Left to right), FIRST ROW, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. C. Pines, Mrs. Warren Snyder, Warren Snyder, Mrs. Ceylon Rissinger, Ceylon Rissinger. SECOND ROW, Lloyd Douty, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lawrence Mitchel, Mrs. Irvin Larver, Mrs. Norman Bousall and Mrs. Edward Kurtz.

Charter Members at 30th Anniversary - 1949



Preparing for an Early Fair Exhibit



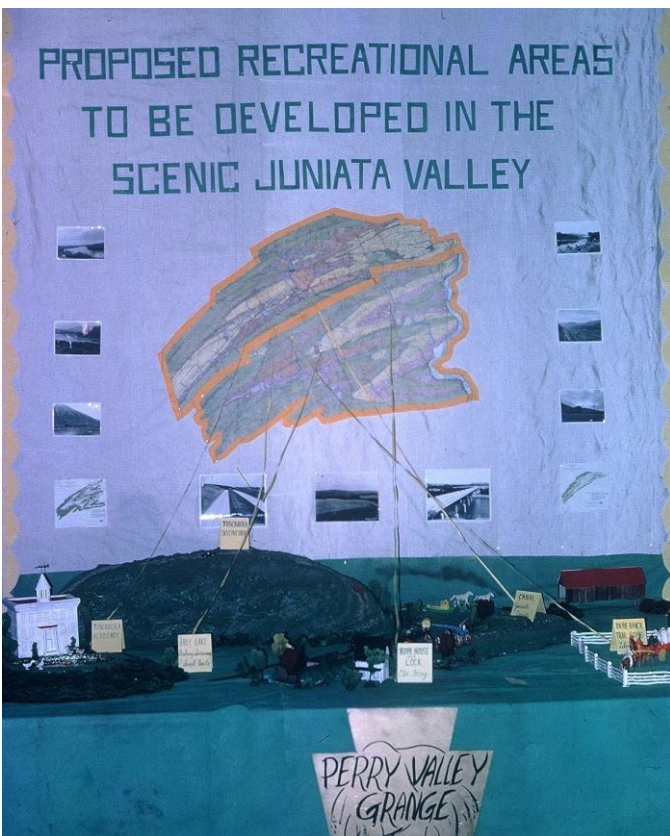
Agricultural Fair Exhibit

The fair displays of agricultural and home products were later replaced with exhibits on a variety of educational themes. Over the years exhibits were taken to Gratz, Carlisle, Bloomsburg, Juniata County and Perry County Fairs.

A cherry pie contest was started in the 1950's among the Granges of Perry County. This was a very popular event every February for many years and the ladies of the Grange took great pride in their baking creations.



Cherry Pie Winners Lesta Schreiber, Viola Byers, Flora Cameron & Verna Earnest



Educational Fair Exhibit

Perry Valley was an early participant in the National Grange Sewing Contest started in the 1950's. Large numbers of entries were secured through the home economic departments of the local high schools.

The Fifth Decade

The 1960's began with more discussion about owning its own building. Herbert Sarver, a charter member, offered the Grange the gift of a piece of ground about one mile from the social hall. No definite decision could be reached by the Grange and building plans were dead for another decade. Nonetheless, the Grange continued a high level of activity and entered into several new projects.

Perry Valley Junior Grange #507 was organized in 1964 by Eleanor L. Smith, State Grange Junior Deputy. The first leader was Viola Byers. Over the years the Junior Grange was active with many of its youth participating in camps, talent contests, and other events promoted by the State Grange.



Early Junior Grange Activities

Starting in 1962 and continuing for several years, Lecturer Emma Mitchell Kurtz spearheaded a movement to record vital statistics from all tombstones in cemeteries located between the Juniata and Susquehanna Rivers. Many evenings and Sunday afternoons were spent by members and friends in recording this information, in many instances the only record of some early settlers.



Recording Tombstone Information

The cemetery census project took several years to complete with the data recorded on individual file cards; the file was first given to the Newport Public Library but later moved to the Perry Historians Genealogical Library near New Bloomfield for public use.



Part of card file being handed to Miss Mary Landis by Harry Schreiber, Master of Perry Valley Grange.

**RECORD OF GRAVESTONES
FILED IN LIBRARY**

Cemetery Census Gifted to Library

The first local cookbook project was undertaken in the mid-1960's. Grange cookbooks – published by the National, State and local Granges – have been popular best sellers ever since.



Charter Member Julia Bonsall with Cookbook

A gala 50th anniversary banquet and program was held in 1969 with State Master A. Wayne Readinger as the speaker. The first Golden Sheaf certificates and pins recognizing 50 years of continuous membership were presented to: Julia Bonsall, W. Oscar Mitchell, Ceylon Rissinger, and Warren & Pearl Snyder.



Lecturer Helen Holman Leads Program

Grange meetings continued to be times of fun and fellowship. Refreshments were always served and it was not unusual for attendees to linger for an hour to catch up with their friends and neighbors.

The Sixth Decade

With membership on the rise and Master Harry Schreiber at the helm, the Grange entered the 1970's anxious to own a Grange Hall. Discussion began in 1971 and by the next year an agreement was reached with the Presbyterian Church to sell the Social Hall to the Grange for the sum of \$4,250. Provision was made in the agreement for the church to have continued use of the facility for their public dinners and other special events.



State Secretary Luther Snyder, Charter Master Ceylon Rissinger and Master Harry Schreiber

Almost immediately the Grange began a project of extensive renovations that would result in a large addition to the building. Ground breaking was held April 30, 1972, and the first cement block was sold for \$9. Nearly all of the labor for the project was donated by the members, spending many hours working there every week.

The materials for the roof and floor of the addition were secured at special prices due to damage suffered in the Hurricane Agnes flood. Slowly but surely the addition was completed with a finished basement that could be used as a conference room and Junior Grange meeting area.



Grange Hall Addition Under Construction



Meal Served to Volunteers Building Hall

Many fundraisers were sponsored to finance the project; among them began the serving of banquets and receptions that would grow quickly into the organization's major source of income. Kitchen facilities were limited and volunteers often brought plates, silverware and pots from their own kitchen.



Making Pies in the Original Grange Kitchen

A mortgage burning ceremony was held in 1977 to recognize the retirement of debt on the local Grange Hall as well and the National Grange headquarters in Washington, D.C. The next year the kitchen was gutted and completely rebuilt with modern equipment.

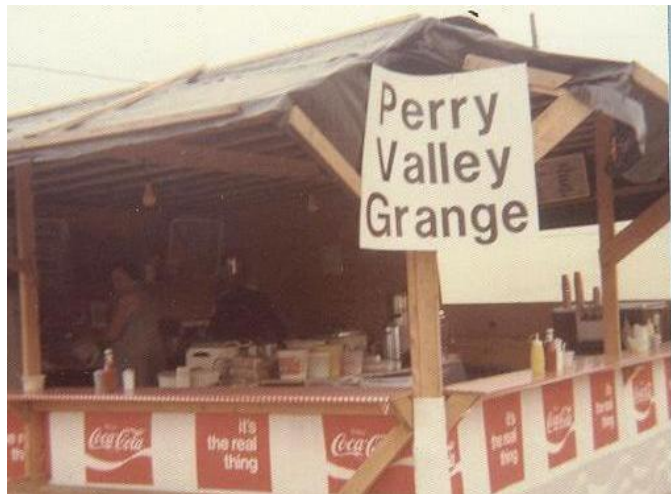
Perry Valley shared its most active members with higher levels of the organization. Thomas Tressler, Bill Cameron and Doug Bonsall served as Master of the Perry County Pomona Grange and in 1974 the first state officer from this Grange was Douglas Bonsall when he was selected to serve as State Grange Youth Director. Eventually he would go on to serve as State Lecturer and State Chaplain and Chair of the 1979 National Grange convention in Lancaster, PA. During this time Lesta Schreiber served as a member of the State Grange Women's Activities Committee and helped to edit the popular 1972 white Grange cookbook.



Square Dance Team



Perry Valleyettes Quartette



Early Concession Stand at Perry County Fair

When the Perry County Fair re-organized in 1971, the Grange began a long tradition of operating a concession stand serving food throughout the fair. Eventually, daily meal specials were served in addition to soups, sandwiches, beverages, and desserts. Several years the stand operated almost around the clock from breakfast through midnight!

For much of the 1970's Perry Valley's members were particularly active in the State Grange talent competition and won many awards at the annual State Grange conventions. The Perry Valleyettes female quartette also sang at many community events.

A proud moment came in 1973 when it was learned that year's Bloomsburg Fair exhibit had been awarded first place.



First Place Bloomsburg Fair Exhibit - 1973

The first public Mother's Day Dinner was served in 1977 and would continue for 15 years. In the 1970's the Grange began holding an annual Open House dinner meeting each spring to promote the Grange to the community.

In 1978, the first Community Citizen Award was given at the Open House to begin an annual tradition of honoring an outstanding individual, couple or organization from the area in recognition of outstanding community service. The first recipient was Mr. Leonard Beasom of Millerstown. The second recipient of the award was Dick Pennay of Liverpool who, along with his wife, later became an active member of the Grange.



Dick Pennay (center) receives 2nd annual Community Citizen Award – 1979 from Bill Cameron (Louise Pennay on left)

The Seventh Decade

The 1980's were particularly busy and fruitful years for the Grange. Lesta Schreiber would become the Grange's first woman Master as she continued service to the State Grange Deaf Activities and Junior Committees. Membership climbed to a highwater mark of 181 in 1989.

Community service was the major emphasis with sixteen major projects completed in 1983. Perry Valley earned first place state community service awards in three consecutive years - 1983, 1984, and 1985. What a thrill to also earn first place National Grange awards and the \$1,000 prize in both 1983 and 1984! Many other state awards were received for Open House programs.

The Grange had long been interested in education and began a project to provide funding that purchased books for children in summer reading programs in Millerstown and Newport.



Books Provided for Reading Programs

Also among those service projects was the Grange's gift of \$1,000 to build a roof over the stage at the fairgrounds in Newport.



\$1,000 Donation to County Fair

Lesta Schreiber, left, master of Perry Valley Grange 1804, presents a check to Annie Campbell, fair association secretary, for a new roof for the stage at the fairgrounds near Newport.

Grange Raises Money For Roof Over Stage

By this time the Grange had developed quite a good and widespread reputation for its public dinners - unique among them the annual Goose Day Dinner and the annual Dutch Festival featuring chicken potpie and ham schnitz & knepp. It was not uncommon for nearly 500 persons to be served at some of these dinners.

The annual practice of giving graduation awards in the local high schools (Greenwood and Newport) began in the 1980's.



Master Leonard Gochenaur (center) Presents Graduation Award

Outings and bus trips were frequent during these years and helped to bring new members into the Grange.



Virginia Shotzberger & Linda Byers Enjoying a Snack on a Grange Outing

Starting in the 1980's and continuing annually for some 30 years, the Grange coordinated daffodil sales in Millerstown and Liverpool to raise thousands of dollars for cancer treatment, patient

services and research. This project was discontinued by the Cancer Society in 2014.



Krista Pontius Helping With Daffodil Sales

Although the Grange Hall was among the best equipped and most attractive public buildings in the area, the members dreamed of even larger and better facilities. In 1987 four+ acres of land along Old Route 22-322 was purchased from the Frances Patterson estate. The long range plan called for building a new Grange Hall in about eight years.

Little did the Grangers know what fate had in store for them. About 9 o'clock on the morning of June 18, 1988, an alarm was sounded that the Perry Valley Grange Hall was on fire. Within an hour the fire gutted the interior of the building and destroyed all the furnishings but, thanks to quick action by the area's volunteer fire companies, the structure was saved. It is believed the fire started by an electrical malfunction in the kitchen.

Miraculously, 75 Junior Grangers and their chaperones from across the state who had spent the night sleeping in the Grange, had left just two hours before the fire began. The 300 lunches that had been prepared for a statewide Junior

Grange visit to Harrisburg were still in the kitchen at the hall at the time of the fire and were a total loss.



Grange Hall after the June 1988 Fire

Although much of the loss was covered by insurance, the Grange decided within three weeks that now was the time to build a new structure rather than fix the fire damaged shell that remained. Ground breaking was held in August 1988 and by November 26th of that year the Grange was able to move into and dedicate its new home.



Groundbreaking for a New Hall – August 1988

The total cost of the land, building, furnishings, equipment and landscaping exceeded \$225,000. Thanks to the generosity of members, friends, organizations, and Granges throughout the state, a mortgage of only \$35,000 was required.



New Grange Hall Dedicated November 1988

Fund raising continued at a furious pace with many banquets, public dinners and the fair concession. Among special fund raisers during these years was the selling of homemade cheese balls and fruitcakes at holidays and working at Hershey Park ride concessions.



Grangers Working at Hershey Park

The new Grange Hall was the first fully accessible and air conditioned public building in the area, so many events were held there. Hundreds of guests attended the Grange's public dinners, several of which featured very unique menus. A lobster dinner was held for several years.



Carol Gantt & Chuck Tressler Helping



Marcy McDermond Counting the Lobster Tails

Gallons and gallons of sweet corn donated by members, a favorite at almost every meal, was husked, cut and frozen every summer. Many other fruits, vegetables and baked goods were also donated regularly by generous Grange members and friends.



John Shotzberger and Lesta Schreiber (in foreground) Brushing Sweet Corn

The Grange Halls have been home to several new churches organized in the community. For several years the Fundamental Bible Church rented the former Grange Hall for its services. The Blessed Hope Bible Church began leasing the new hall for its services soon after it was built and continued to be meet there well into the 1990's. Even before construction on the new hall was completed, it

became the polling location for Greenwood Township voters. The Christ Community Chapel, another new church, began meeting in the hall during the mid 1990's and continued until 2004.

The Eighth Decade

The new hall was almost constantly in use with many banquets and receptions being served. By 1990 the Grange was able to celebrate the burning of the mortgage.



Mortgage Burning - 1990

Before long another loan was secured to pave the parking areas surrounding the building which was quickly becoming the location of 70-80 public functions each year.



Natalie Fritz Helping at a Banquet

Following the 20th year of serving meals at the Perry County Fair, the concession was discontinued since the Grange was finding it

difficult to keep up with the demand for banquets and receptions at the new hall. In 1992 the decision was also reached to discontinue public dinners.

An annual budget of as much as \$9,000 was set aside each year for the Grange's community service program. This money was distributed to numerous worthy causes. In 1991 a game novelty called *Perry County Monopoly* was copyrighted by the Grange and the proceeds provided four \$500 scholarships to local high school seniors.

One of the most outstanding projects of these years was the collection of two tractor trailer loads of food, household items and clothing for victims of Hurricane Andrew in south Florida. The response of the community to this initiative by the Grange was outstanding; our neighboring Campbell Trucking Company provided the trucks and drivers to deliver the goods to Florida free of charge.

The annual poster and essay contest sponsored in local elementary schools began and continues to be one of the Grange's signature service projects.



Poster Contestants from One School

During the se assemblies third grade students received "Words for Thirds" personal dictionaries purchased by the Pomona Grange.



Peg Bolton (right) Distributes Dictionaries

In the early 1990's Perry Valley Grange took a big step to modernize its meetings to meet the needs expressed by many of our members. Dinner meetings with a program following alternated with business meetings and a program . At the same time action was taken to eliminate the use of secret passwords at business meetings and to streamline the use of ritual in the opening and closing of these meetings. This decision was highly criticized by some other Granges in the area.



Officers Ron Makibbin, Kitty Smith & Shirley Delancey Present Flag at Grange Meeting

Although changes in formal meetings have taken place, the open Bible and the American flag is always in evidence whenever the Grange gathers.

Perry Valley's members continued to give leadership throughout the organization with Bill Cameron again serving as Pomona Master, Carol Rhoades as a member of the State Junior Committee, Harold Mitzel and Jane Madsen serving on the State Grange Good of the Order Committee and Doug Bonsall returning to serve a term as State Grange Community Service coordinator and member of the Host Committee for the 1995 National Grange convention in Harrisburg. Debra Campbell received three consecutive awards from the National Grange as State Junior Director of the Year and in 1998, after six years as PA State Grange Junior Director, she was elected State Pomona.

For much of the 1990's, Perry Valley Grange had a particularly active youth and junior program. In 1996 Jessica Blair was selected State Junior Princess and Jennifer Campbell became selected State Grange Female Youth ambassador. History repeated itself when in 1998 Nichole Blair became

State Junior Princess and Lindsie Bennett was selected as State Grange Female Youth Ambassador.



Junior Grange Collecting Roadside Trash

The practice of celebrating the 90th birthdays of our members was a popular addition to the Grange's fellowship dinners and picnics.



Harry Horting, Louise Cameron and Elizabeth Wright Celebrate 90th Birthdays

Voting to concentrate on one major community service project for the year, in 1998 the Grange generated nearly \$5,000 for the Farmland

Preservation Fund in Perry County. These funds were matched by the county and state governments, resulting in enough funding to purchase the future development rights for one small farm in the area.

The Ninth Decade

As the 20th century closed and a new millennium began, Perry Valley Grange had a membership of approximately 150 persons and continued to emphasize community service as its major reason for existence. Finances were healthy with 40-50 banquets and receptions served annually.

Major expenditures were involved in the replacement of tables and chairs (2000), extension and repaving of the parking lot, and addition of new exterior lighting the parking lot areas (2001). A December 2000 storm damaged the brick pillars of the outdoor sign and it was necessary to replace all the masonry. In 2001, after noting the size of many banquet groups was diminishing and impacting the Grange's income, the decision was made to again sponsor public dinners as fund raisers. The popular Valentine's Seafood & Sirloin" Gala began in 2004.



Preparing for a Valentine's Gala

The Grange continued its emphasis on community service with a full agenda of projects each year. In early 2003, a "Support our Troops" project drew support from many local communities as personal supplies were assembled into kits for shipment to Iraq and later that year our first community Fall Fest was held. State community service awards were received in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. In 2004 Perry Valley Grange received an award at the State FFA convention for outstanding support of FFA work.

Volunteers annually staff the Millerstown area recycling program and for several years the Grange provided a fellowship recognition dinner for local recycling volunteers.



Grange Volunteers at Recycling Collection

The Grange website www.perryvalleygrange.org was launched in 2001 and the bylaws were amended to create a new category of associate membership called Business Sponsor. Also that year Perry Valley became one of first seven "Action Granges" in Pennsylvania. The Action Grange program was an effort of the National Grange to explore new ways of "being Grange" and becoming a more open, modern organization. Local members traveled to Action Grange conferences in Ohio (2001) and New York (2002). Because Perry Valley had instituted many changes more than a decade earlier, few of the suggested changes were new to us.

this day featuring local traditions and family activities.

The year 2005 was one filled with major property improvements. Early in the year a convection oven, warming cabinet and new countertops were installed in the kitchen, requiring the relocation of the freezer to the workroom. Later that year an enclosed pavilion equipped with picnic tables and a modest kitchen area was constructed at the end of the parking lot, finished just in time to use at the growing Fall Fest.



New Pavilion Built on Grange Grounds - 2005

An enclosure was built around the dumpster and the dining room received a facelift with new ceiling, lights and wall paneling. Rather than replace expensive lawn care equipment, the Grange decided for the first time to contract for mowing services.

Fun, food and activities for the whole family at

Perry Valley Grange Hall

W. Juniata Parkway & Owl Hollow Rd. 2 miles east of Millerstown

Program of Events

7:30 AM-9:30 AM	Country Breakfast Buffet (\$6.50 for adults, \$3.25 for children ages 6-12)	Closing Room
8 AM-9 AM	Plant/Flower Market open	Parking Lot
8:15 AM	Dinner Concert Registration	Grange Hall Main Room
8:30 AM	Rubber Stamping Workshop	Dining Room
8:45 AM-9 PM	Free Health Tests	Grange Hall Lobby
9 AM-2 PM	Hot Kettle Bacon Available	Pavilion
9 AM-4 PM	Petting Zoo & Children's Play Area	Parking Lot Tent
9 AM-4 PM	Traditional Arts & Crafts demonstration/sales	Parking Lot Tent, Conference Room
9 AM-4 PM	Hospitality for the Elderly Family	Auxiliary Parking Area
9 AM-4 PM	Snack Bar & Grotto Corner serving sandwiches, desserts & beverages	Pavilion
10:15 AM	Purple Heart Ceremony	Dining Room
11 AM	Plant Decorating Workshop	Dining Room
11 AM	Auction Registration	Lobby
11 AM-1 PM	Children's hands-on activities	Parking Lot Tent
11:45 AM	Remodeling Workshop	Dining Room
12 noon	Dinner Concert (judging closed to public)	Grange Hall Work Room
12:00PM-2 PM	Free Tree Label Farm Christmas Cards	Lower Level Area
1 PM	"Hot Hot" Fashion Show, Judging & Cash Awards	Dining Room
2 PM	Concert - Music by "Special Friends"	Dining Room
3 PM-7 PM	Barbecued Chicken Dinner (\$7.50 for adults, \$3.75 for children ages 6-12)	Dining Room
4 PM	Adult Evening (adults admission of \$5.00 for 6-12)	Dining Room

Thanks to our special Fall Fest Sponsors

- Myers Funeral Home & Family: Christian Book, Perry County Land & Cattle, Millerstown Veterinary
- Allentown - general support
- A.E. Conditson & Son, Inc.: Christmas Farm, Delivery of 1000 plants, 10000 flowers - dinner concert prizes
- Fire National Bank of Millerstown: \$5000 in Free Annual Fall - our courtesy for your purchase
- Chesley's Farm, Inc.: 10000 Christmas Cards, 10000 Christmas Cards - our courtesy for your purchase
- Ideal Printing: 10000 Christmas Cards, 10000 Christmas Cards - our courtesy for your purchase
- Berman's Wheel: 10000 Christmas Cards - our courtesy for your purchase

Fall Fest

See Reverse for More Details

Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007

7:30 AM - 5 PM

Rain or Shine: Many Outdoor Events Held Under Tents

Fall Fest is a community service project of Perry Valley Grange #1804
Proceeds support the Greenwood & Newport FFA Chapters

Featured Attractions at Fall Fest	
• Story Telling	• Herbs & Soap Making
• Color Pressing	• Tacky Shows
• Scrapbooking	• Spinning & Knitting
• Sewing	• Paper Mache & Clay
• Jewelry Making	• Free Educational Workshops
• Family Hygiene	• Health Screenings
• Children's Activities - Parking Lot Tents	• Animal Petting Zoo
• Picture Books	• Face painting
• Trivia, Trivia Quiz	• Corn play area
• Actual Meals	• Pasta Jambay
• Butte Making	• Soap Making
• Ball Pein Hammer	• Try your Luck at the Old Time Cake Wheel
• Free Concessions	• Family Hygiene
• Free Concessions	• Health Screenings

Save \$1 on the purchase of any Fall Fest food item
Clip free coupon & present to cashier with your purchase
Limit one per customer

Fall Fest Held 2003-2007

Fall Fest, begun in 2003 as an expanded Halloween activity for families, continued to grow and was held for five consecutive years. As many as 1,000 visitors enjoyed the many free activities of



Driveway Provided Access to Upper Parking Area

The upper parking area was made more accessible with the addition of a second driveway; a \$7,500

grant from the Commonwealth of PA helped finance this project.

In 2006 a grant of \$15,000 from the PA Department of Community & Economic Development was received for the replacement of the roof on the Grange Hall and we completed the refurbishment of the restrooms.



Senator Jake Corman (left) Presents Grant to Grange President Doug Bonsall - 2006

Continuing to be hampered by an inadequate supply of hot water, an oil fired system was installed to correct the problem. New state regulations required the installation of a new and more sophisticated ultra-violet water treatment system, extension of casing within the well and the decommissioning of the underground heating oil tank.

Problems with outdoor lighting required the digging of a trench along the entire length of the front parking lot and the installation of new wiring. In 2007 hallway and conference room refurbishments were finally completed. In 2009, a grant of over \$9,000 was received from the Millerstown-based Hoverter Charitable Foundation to fund improvements and repairs to the Grange property.

For several years, the Grange sold as many as 600 homemade pies at Thanksgiving and also served a free community Thanksgiving Dinner. Meals were

delivered to shut-ins and a group meal was served at the Grange Hall. After a few years, both of these projects were discontinued for lack of help.

A new Perry Valley Grange cookbook was printed in 2007. Recipes were contributed by Granges all over central Pennsylvania and hundreds of copies were sold.



Carol Rhoades Shows 2007 Cookbook

Grange activities continued at a brisk pace thanks to the efforts of a strong core of members, but it became increasingly difficult to attract new members willing to take an active part in the work of the organization. As many of the older and very faithful members passed away or were no longer able to participate, the Grange struggled to find sufficient volunteers and new ways of doing things.

First, banquet serving was changed from family-style to buffet-style. Later the Grange began paying members of the local FFA chapters to help with serving at the public dinners.



FFA Servers at a Grange Dinner



Georgia Markle (left) Donates at Blood Drive

Despite difficulties, the Grange never wavered in its commitment to community service. Cooperation with the local Boy Scouts brought Red Cross blood drives to the Grange Hall on several cold winter days. Also during the winter for many years, Grange volunteers helped make milk shakes at the PA Farm Show.

Also among the community service projects of recent years were the annual purchase of a 4-H or FFA hog at the Perry County Fair and the sponsorship of an annual raffle to benefit the local FFA chapters.



Hog Purchased at Fair Livestock Sale

Other Granges from Perry County are invited to participate every two years in the impressive officers' installation ceremony that has been conducted by Grange friends from York County.



Bob Sheaffer Manning the Milk Shake Machine



Officers-Elect Receive Their Obligation

In 2010 the Grange entered into talks with the Newport Masonic Lodge about the possibility of the lodge moving its meetings to the Grange Hall. Eventually an agreement was reached that allowed the lodge to use the Grange Hall at no charge in exchange for help at banquet and public dinners. A Joint Operating Committee with three members each from the Grange and the Lodge became responsible for the planning and execution of fund raising events. Lodge members performed most of the necessary property maintenance duties.



Lodge Member Albert Miller Helping at a Dinner



Lodge & Grange Members Enjoy St. Pat's Party

The shared use of the Grange Hall continued quite successfully for two years. Even with help from the Lodge, the Grange still faced a severe shortage of both leaders and volunteers and by the end of 2012 the Lodge decided to move back to a rented facility in Newport. Finally, the painful decision was reached to sell the Grange Hall. After receiving permission from the State Grange Executive Committee to proceed with the sale, the property went on the market in September 2012 and a sales agreement was signed in mid-2014.



**Millerstown Park Community Building
New Home of Perry Valley Grange – 2015**

A 25-year lease to hold Grange meetings/activities at the Millerstown Recreation Association park building was approved by the State Grange. Settlement of the sale is expected in December 2014.

As this 95th birthday is celebrated, Perry Valley Grange has a membership of just over 75 persons plus the support of 29 Business Sponsors. The Junior Grange is presently inactive. Thankfully, several new youth members have come into the Grange through the relationship nurtured with the Greenwood FFA Chapter.



Welcoming New Grange Members



2015-16 Perry Valley Grange Officers

Perry Valley Grange now faces the new challenge of re-inventing itself as it moves to a new home. Only time will tell what the future holds, but undoubtedly the history of our Grange will depend on the dedication of its members to carry on the noble principles established by our forefathers.

The Grange is all about peoplefaithful members selflessly serving others.



