

Perry Valley Grange #1804, Inc. Newsletter

Meeting Location:

Millerstown Community Park Building 110 Juniata Parkway West, Millerstown, PA 17062

Blue Ribbons at Two Fairs



This year's Grange exhibit earned first place blue ribbons recently at both the 2018 Perry County and Juniata County Fairs. Following the state fair theme (*Country Scenes....Blue Ribbon Dreams*) the exhibit conveyed a message about the factors that make for strong "blue ribbon" communities in the Juniata Valley – business growth, quality education, good transportation, residential housing, recreational areas, and forest management.

First Community Concert a Big Success

On a lovely June evening the Grange sponsored a free community concert in the Millerstown Park Amphitheater. It was very popular, promising to be the first of many.



Folk singer and recording artist Van Wagner (below) from the Lewisburg area performed a program of vocal and guitar music that included some of his own compositions. His narrative cleverly wove into the concert many facts about the Juniata River just behind the stage and its cultural, historic and economic impact on the area. Plans are already underway for two free concerts to be held during the summer of 2018.



PA Canal History



Part of the display of historical memorabilia about the Susquehanna & Juniata Divisions of the PA canal system presented at our July Grange meeting by Pat Campbell of Liverpool.

Picnicking at Fort Hunter



Although it was a rainy stormy evening, a good group attended the August picnic at Fort Hunter.

Park Director Julia Hair (standing left) led a tour of the historic mansion and thanked the Grange for awarding an \$8,000 grant that provided permanent outdoor educational signage in the recently developed section of the property. The signs are on the following subjects:

- Logging on the river
- Coal reclamation of bygone years
- Fort Hunter Service Station
- Fish & Birds of the Susquehanna
- Native Americans in the area
- The Susquehanna River
- Historic Rockville Railroad Bridge
- Large "Welcome to Fort Hunter" map

Bits and Pieces

Thanks to Perry Valley Thanks to Perry Valley members/friends who helped in the Pomona

Grange concession stand near the race track/animal barns during the Perry County Fair.

State Grange in Scranton

The 145th annual convention of the PA State Grange will be held this year in downtown Scranton, October 20-22 (Friday through Sunday). The headquarters is the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, an historic restored train station just down the street from the Steamtown National Historic site and the Steamtown Mall.. Doug Bonsall, who serves as chair of the State Grange History Committee, will be attending Friday & Saturday of the session as one of Perry Valley's voting delegates. A second delegate position for our Grange is available; contact Linda Byers (589-7889) if you are willing to serve.

Preserving Grange Records

The Executive Committee recently voted to send a \$500 donation to the State Grange for its current project underway to preserve irreplaceable records. State Grange Journals of Proceedings, newsletters and other important documents dating back to the 1870's will be microfilmed for permanent preservation and stored in a secure, climate controlled location. The microfilming process also provides conversion of the pages to PDF files that can be loaded on the state Grange website for easy access to members and researchers.

Perry Valley will also be piggy-backing on this state project to get its own records permanently preserved. Materials including minute books from 1919 to the present day, scrapbooks compiled by various committees over the years, photos and legal documents will be microfilmed. The one-time cost to do this microfilming is a worthwhile investment to preserve a record of the Grange's service for generations to come. Hopefully this work can be done sometime early in 2018.

Coming Attractions

Grange Meeting Service Dog Program Friday, September 15th

Please note change of date from usual second Friday due to other events scheduled at the Community Park Building.

As part of the Grange's continuing series of educational programs open to the public, Kristie Gantt from Perry County Children & Youth Services will present a program about the efforts to secure a service dog that will provide assistance to children under the care of the agency. Our Grange has designated a \$750 contribution toward the \$5,000 to obtain the trained dog and to provide for its ongoing care.

This informational program will be held in the Millerstown Community Park Building, 110 West Juniata Parkway, Millerstown beginning with a 6:30 p.m. dessert reception. Barbara McMillen is chair of the evening's Social Committee. During the business session the Grange charter will be draped in memory of the late Reba Cameron Weimer, a member since 1950, who died earlier this summer.

Apple Snitzing Project Friday, October 6th



In lieu of a formal meeting at the Park Building this month, Grange members and friends will continue the annual tradition of helping to snitz

(cut) bushels of apples at St. John (Barner's) Lutheran Church as one of the steps in making gallons of apple butter or sale. For more than 60 years, this small country church where some of our Grange members are very active has sponsored this fund raising and social activity every fall. Most of the proceeds are given to worthy charitable causes. Some apples will be ready for snitzing by 1 p.m. Volunteers may help during the afternoon and/or evening; work will continue until all the apples are done. Tasty refreshments for all helpers are promised!

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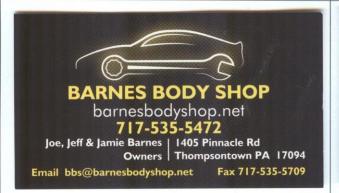
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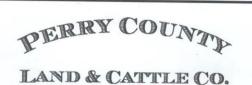
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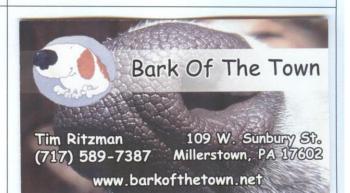
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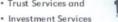
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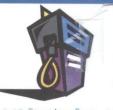
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Grange member/past Master Edgar Byers (front row center holding certificate) was recently honored by the Perry County Fair with its "Friend of the Fair" award for his many years of voluntary service. Joining him are members of the Fair board, his family and state officials including Secretary of Agriculture Russell Reddig and State Representative Mark Keller (front row, right).

Get Involved in These Coming Events

September 2017			
10	Remove exhibit at Juniata County Fair		
15	Grange Meeting/Program (see details on Page 3) Park Building		
	Officers' Rehearsal at 5:45 p.m.		
	Dessert Reception @ 6:30 p.m. Social Chair – Barbara McMillen Everyone bring a snack item to share		
	Business Meeting/Program at 7 p.m.		
	Speaker – Kristie Gantt on Perry County Children & Youth Service Dog Project		
18	Executive Committee Meeting		
22	Food preparation at Park Building		
23	FFA Alumni event at Hunters Valley Winery		
26	Perry Valley hosts Pomona Grange meeting at Millerstown Park Building		
30	Apple dumplings for "Farm to Fork" event		

Celebrating Special Days

September Birthdays		
13	Carol Rhoades	
17	Sue Ann Byers, Scott Delancey	
21	Dean Cauffman	
24	Carol Eckenrode	
29	Peg Bolton	

September Birthdays		
2	Glen Cauffman	
3	Lloyd Byers	
14	Carol Gantt	
30	Bill Cameron, Bob Yohn	
October Anniversaries		
18	Bob & Barbara Sheaffer	

October 2017		
6	Service Project – Grange provides volunteers for apple snitzing at Barner's Church	
14	Perry Valley provides volunteers to assist with 110 th anniversary of Valley Grange in Lewisberry	
16	Executive Committee Meeting	
20- 22	State Grange convention in Scranton, PA	



Financial Report

Checking Balance 7/1/2017	\$17,184.71
PLUS: Receipts – July-Aug 2017	.+ 972.04
LESS: Expenses – July-Aug 2017	. <u>- 6,419.80</u>
Checking Balance 8/31/2017	\$11,736.95
Certificates of Deposit	\$98,221.54

Please note on the calendar two events during the latter part of September that will need your help. We will be preparing food on Sept. 22nd and serving a buffet dinner Sept. 23rd for an FFA Alumni event held at the Hunter's Valley Winery. The following Saturday we have committed to making and donating 150 apple dumplings to the county "Farm to Fork" event. Please let Peg Bolton know if you can help on any of these days.

Summer Reading Program

We did it again! Perry Valley created lots of smiles and encouraged good reading habits among local children with its \$500 contribution to the Newport Public Library's summer reading program. Part of the money was used to buy books for the children in the program and the balance purchased kits to build blue bird houses as a project for families. A very special thank you to *Barbara McMillen* for spending an afternoon reading to the children at the library.

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Perry Valley 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.

Perry Valley Grange Vision

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

Perry Valley Grange #1804, Inc.

c/o Douglas A. Bonsall 300 Swatara Street, PO Box 765 Dauphin, PA 17018-0765



September-October 2017 Newsletter