



SHARPSVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

The format of this newsletter—which we hope has both interested and given the reader a feeling of increased connection to Sharpville—will be changing. The previous articles on the history of Sharpville published in this newsletter since May 2012 are being compiled into a book which will be released in conjunction with the town's sesquicentennial celebration in 2024.

The book, as planned, will include not only many of the historical articles originally published in this newsletter, but additional material, and new articles, as well as articles that have been completely rewritten as new information has come to light. Given the size constraints of the newsletter-format, the book will include many more photographs. In addition, full citations of the facts asserted in each article will be included. We often get questions on how we know such-and-such, and, unfortunately, the stories told in booklets written for past town anniversaries are but "town lore." The footnotes in the book will also include interesting information that is not included in the main narrative.

Meanwhile, as the upcoming book is being edited, less original research will be able to be presented here. Much of what we'll be able to share, though, will come from binders of research compiled by Jim Lawton. These "Around Town" binders are basically walks down Sharpville's main streets and avenues and which give an account of the prior occupants of buildings along the way. That some of these places—maybe now a dwelling—were once a shop may surprise most. Others locations mentioned may revive many forgotten memories.

Of course, we will continue to keep you up-to-date on upcoming events and ways you can help the Society and ways the Society is continuing its mission. Even with this revised format, we trust it will spur a continued engagement with the Historical Society and you, the

Building Update

The electrical work which began this summer has been completed. The building's safety and appearance has been improved with wiring that meets current standards replacing a tangle of old wiring. Updated lighting fixtures allow us to make better use of the basement area. Much thanks to Gaus Electrical Service of Sharpville for their work and accommodation of our change orders.

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 Sharpville history.

Our basement display is expanding and may include items you may have missed on a prior visit.

Contact Us

website: www.sharpsvillehistorical.org

email: sharpsvillehistorical@hotmail.com

see our website for officers' phone numbers

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

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

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

Commemorative Bricks

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 would be placed in the town park.

Stop at Mehler Insurance
or call 724-962-2392
or email sharpsvillehistorical@hotmail.com

Around Town

Upper Ridge Avenue

In May of 2021, a friend of the Historical Society, the well-known and well-liked Jim Lawton of this town, passed away. He bequeathed to the Society his large collection of research on the history of Sharpsville. This is one of the largest and most important additions to our archives and supplements the many photos and clippings he gave us in 2012. The centerpiece of his donation are the nine scrapbooks he compiled, with many focusing on a Sharpsville neighborhood and outlining the successive occupants of the commercial and institutional (and some residential) buildings there. Other scrapbooks are subject-based. Within the scrapbooks are several old photos and documents, any one of which would have been a noteworthy addition to our collections. In addition, Jim's bequest includes many file folders of newspaper clippings, with the cataloguing ongoing.

From Jim's "Around Town" binders are the following photos—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.) There are many surprises for what used to be in familiar buildings we often drive by.



1815 W. Ridge Avenue

Warner & Smith Trucking Terminal,
1932

Later, Miller's Grocery Store
Now a residence



101 16th Street

James DePizzo started a Grocery Store out of his house (right) in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The store was in the room with the bay window. Entrance to the store was via a door on the wall to the left of the front door. He later moved the store to a building next to the house (below), with DePizzo's grocery store shown in 2000 and in the 1950s.





While Autumn is long past, and the High School football season concluded, the upcoming Bowl Games and NFL Playoffs, nonetheless, remind us it is still football season. Here are photos from the Sharpsville-Sharon game of 1928, played at the 13th Street Field. The field included what is now the 13th Street playground as well as land to the north, before Pierce Avenue was extended to bisect the area.

Collections update

John Vannoy donated a large collection consisting mainly of newspaper clippings, team photos, and team records relating to Sharpsville High sports in the 1980s and 90s.

With Gratitude

We received generous donations from

David Areen and Ann Morris

Thanks as well to **Cindy Crytzer** who gave an informative and engaging talk at our November meeting.

Items for Sale

**Natural Stone Drink
Coasters**

Featuring Lithographed
scenes of old Sharpsville

**T-Shirts with
Historical Society Logo**

Several colors and sizes are
available

**Scenes of Old Sharpsville
vols. I & II**

DVDs each containing 100
captioned photos of Sharpsville in
years past

Also Cat's Meow, Commemorative Medallions, and Christmas Ornaments
See our website for prices and ordering information

Around Town, Upper Ridge Avenue, cont'd



1636 Ridge Avenue

Built 1949, for Alexander Perhacs
Grocery Store

Later, West Penn Insurance Co.,
run by Alexander Perhacs and
American Beauty Salon run by his
wife, Margaret Perhacs

Chiropractor Frederick E. Betz,
1963

Dr. Michael Roth's office, 1965-
2002



1530 Ridge Avenue

Lucille E. Saul Grocery Store

Saul's Gas Station (1 pump),
1930, Jerry Saul

Now a residence



Saul's store around 1910



1417 Ridge Avenue

Ridgeway Auto Service, T.L. Petricini, Proprietor, 1957. They sold Sinclair Gas.

Wayne's Automotive Center in 2000. Afterwards, Brett Lapceovich Contracting.



1333 Ridge Avenue

Built in 1915 for the Wilbert Vath Monument Co. Lewis Vath also sold Columbia "Six" Motors Cars out of there in 1920s. The monument company closed in 1940.

Later owners: Homer Logue Monument Service

Then, Mr. McDevitte—Radio & Television

Later, an air conditioning service company

Faller & Allen Electronics Service started here in 1967.

Grimm Heating & Cooling, since 2013



1200 Ridge Avenue

Steinman Gas Station, owned by James P. & Elise D. Stineman in 1930

Later, Ed Rogan's Mobil Gas Station

Now a residence

Around Town, Upper Ridge Avenue, Cont'd.



1142 Ridge Avenue

In 1933, Reed Stevenson started his funeral home business in the house next door at 1136 Ridge Avenue (currently home to Alex & A.J. Kovach). In 1938, he moved the business to the location at 1142 Ridge Ave.

Tedd Webb later purchased the funeral home and renamed Stevenson-Webb Funeral Home in 1976.

Michael Hudson purchased the funeral home in 2010.

The funeral home since closed and has been apartments since 2015.



1041 Ridge Avenue

Floral Bell, Grocery Store

Kanter & Haines Grocery Store

Earl J. Minnick, Chiropractor,
1937



965 Ridge Avenue

A gas station and auto repair garage run by Mr. Joe McKean & Clair Osborne, selling Mobil gas. They later sold Gulf gas.

The service station was later run by Thomas Bonaquist.

Jon Falkner's Sharpsville Auto Sales from 2003-2010.

Now Hometown Pizza, Ken Miller since 2017.