

The

Echo



PLEASANT VALLEY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN
Established 1964

Old Town Merchant, MAX RIAVE's Family

Recently, members of the Max Riave family convened from across the country to share family artifacts with PVHM. After touring the garden and construction site, the cousins assembled for a photograph in front of their grandfather Max's *Riave Clothier* store on Ventura Boulevard, depicted on the museum's east wall mural beneath the Old Town bell. Max and Ruth's four children — Lionel, Kermit, Sarelle, and Kandy — were raised in Camarillo.



L. to R.: Cherie Lovas (née Riave), Lance Friedman, Teri Riave, Keyla Treitman, Lynne Friedman, Marc Friedman

Max Riave (1895–1982) was born in Russia and immigrated to the United States at age six, initially settling in Indianapolis before moving to California in 1907. He enlisted in the military in 1917 during World War I. Following his service, he married Ruth Goldring, and in 1923 they relocated to Camarillo, where Max and his brother Sam established their first mercantile store at the end of Ventura Boulevard. In 1949, Max moved the store to a new location on *Knob Hill*, focusing exclusively on clothing.

He demonstrated notable civic commitment through active participation in the Chamber of Commerce, the VFW, and as a founding member of *the PV Lions Club*. This picture taken in 1980 at PV School, was Max's favorite *Lions* event — passing out American flags to elementary children every year.

Additionally, Max was instrumental in forming the Ventura Jewish Council and contributed to both the Elks Lodge and the Masonic Lodge. In 1965, he was inducted into the inaugural class of Dons & Doñas, recognized by PVHS.



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The Riave family provided PVHM with numerous documents belonging to the eldest son, Lionel “Lyle” Riave (1923-1998). Colonel Riave was raised in Camarillo, attended Oxnard High School, and left shortly before graduating in 1942 to serve in the Army. Although he did not complete his high school education on time, as many young men did during that time. Ten days after Pearl Harbor, he enlisted. Among these artifacts is a letter to his parents explaining that decision.

Once he returned from the war, Lyle pursued an accomplished career: he earned his undergraduate degree from UCSB, a master’s degree from Syracuse University, and a Doctor of Law from Boalt Hall, Berkeley. When stationed at Alconbury A.F. Base, Lyle attended King’s College at Cambridge University in England, earning a degree in Comparative Law. Lyle achieved the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, and served during WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Colonel Riave held positions including Chief of the Judge Advocate General (JAG), Administrative Law Judge in California, and taught various law courses. Four generations of the Riave family have served in the military. Lionel and Eleanor Riave had three daughters: Cherie resides in Gold River, CA; Jennifer Sipe is in Crossville, TN; and Teri lives in Fair Oaks, CA.

President’s Message

Spring is the time of hope. We see wildflowers and daffodils beginning to bloom and our world feels vibrant with new color. We have an extra hour of daylight to take a walk, to watch children play in the park, or to just sit outside and enjoy the fresh air

For our museum and garden, it is also a time of hope. We want to finish the expansion project and reopen so that you can once again visit our museum and beautiful garden. There are a number of wonderful additions to our garden which you can read about in this edition of the Echo. I’m excited for you to see them. We also have an important update on the expansion project.

As anyone who has ever done a construction project on your home, you know it frequently takes longer than planned. So bear with us as we work on the last phase of our project. Thank you for your ongoing support!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Ann Spork". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

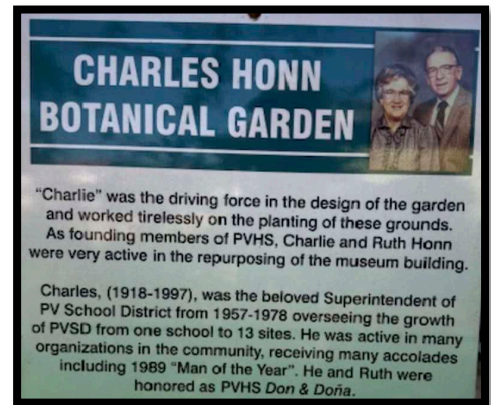
Membership Reminder

We need your support for ongoing museum operations. You can join or renew anytime during the year. Your dues will be credited for one year from the date payment is received. Look to the website: pvhsonline.org for easy payment.

Camarillo's "Hidden Gem"

Sometimes referred to as a "Hidden Gem," visitors are amazed at the almost two-acre parcel behind the museum building that has been turned into a beautiful, peaceful, shaded natural garden. Historically, the land was farmland homesteaded by the Crinklaw family and then sold to the Flynn family. At one time, there were three small farm laborer's houses on the property. John Cabrera had spoken of living on this land and walking south to the PV School. This plot was the site of a large sunken water reservoir when the property was used by the Camino Water District. The rest of the land was dirt and weeds.

1987 Charles Honn and early PVHS members envisioned this wasteland as a restful garden at the same time the water company's office was repurposed as the museum. A circular five-foot wide concrete path leads visitors all around the garden. The Seabees brought in rocks and created a dry riverbed that extends from the south part of the garden to the northeast edge.



On entering the garden, the first sight is a 27' Amish Gazebo that members can reserve for small events such as weddings, parties, or meetings. Lights, water and electricity make it a very attractive venue. Walking on the path to the east crossing two wooden bridges over the river, you will see the beautiful mural painted by Diane Ellias. This mural on the side of a storage building gives the illusion of the river extending to the mountains along with representations of plants that can be seen in the garden. Notice the Chumash cooking utensils display. Look carefully to see the representation of the Scholle Farm building using the original 1880s wood salvaged from the farm.

Extending the museum's historical collections, three small display buildings in this area feature a 1800s Medicine Buggy, medical and doctor's supplies, a "Smithy" and a Mercantile window display.

Continuing along the east path, you pass the huge Colter Pine which was planted in 1987 along with 3 beautiful Sequoia trees located at the north side of the garden. Another full-grown tree is the California Buckeye which produces beautiful long white seed blossoms every year which attract hundreds of bees.



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Chumash Indians had used this poisonous nut after leaching the toxins, as a flour base. Throughout the garden, various native plants are blooming, spring brings white and blue lupine, iris, poppies, and others which flower during the year. Some other plants to be found: manzanita, yarrow, Indian mint grass, red bud trees, toyon, salvia, flannel bush, Encelia and Maximilian sunflower.



In 2020, *The Barn* was the first garden display building built. Four large windows allow viewing of the interior. It houses a variety of artifacts used on farms and ranches, carpenter and cobbler's tools, and automotive accessories. Also, hanging inside is the original 80 lb. iron sign at the opening of the first Santa Clara bridge in 1898 on the Ventura highway listing the VC Board of Supervisors at the time.

Next is the *Kitchen Back Porch* displaying everyday items used by families for food preparation and laundry duties. Of interest, is a 6' copper bathtub, probably from a saloon or hotel, a homemade rocking chair from the Lewis family, a 1920s electric agitator washing machine with copper tub. Through the windows you will see typical baking appliances and a 1920s Magic Chef gas stove in great condition—cream and mint green.



The newest small building will feature garden plants, chickens, and displays especially of interest to children. Again, artist Diane has painted the animals found in the garden—hawk, raccoon, coyote, and bees on the outside walls, just a few creatures that call this hidden haven their home.



Our members have constructed all the buildings themselves, learning as they went, and try to contain the weeds that grow faster than the plants. Each building in the garden helps us to experience and understand moments from the past. It has become an extension of the indoor museum, equally important. Our teaching garden is where nature, history and art merge. It is filled with carefully selected plants and trees that attract insects and wildlife.

We will soon be celebrating not just the grand opening of the new museum building, but also welcoming our visitors to take a quiet moment to delight in the “Hidden Gem” beauty of the *Charles Honn Botanical Garden*.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

The museum received a “puzzle box” of early sewing machine attachments for a treadle sewing machine. **Liz Dilibert** of Somis is an exceptional seamstress. (she got an A+ on her high school notebook of “FASHION” of the time — 1940s and 50s — even explaining “colors”). The box contains a complete collection of Singer “hemming” attachments and other pieces that we have yet to identify. The box has a patent date of 1899.



CLOSED
(6 ½" x 3 ¼")



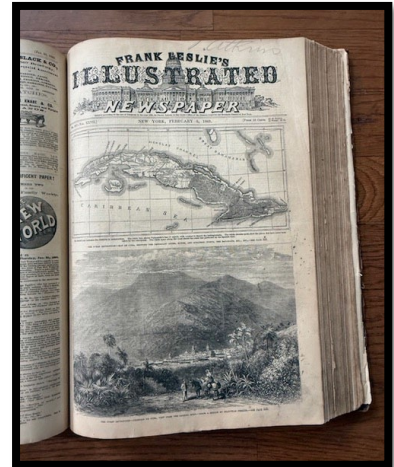
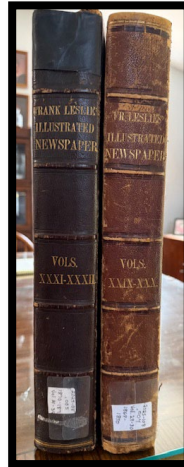
OPENED
(6 ½" x 13")

David Adkins, the man who takes care of all our musical instruments and record players, recently gifted a rare set of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspapers. They were published weekly in New York City, and sent throughout the United States.

Our 6 volumes are from 1868 through 1874, two years per volume.



(Open spread is 24 ½" x 16")



They were bound by David's grandfather who realized they are a treasure of history. The text reports of current events along with the advertisements make for fascination reading. Known for their amazingly detailed pen and ink illustrations of events, current and historic, before photography, Leslie needed to develop a process for producing the famous lithographs in a timely fashion. Because these editions came out weekly, each page was divided into 8 or 9 squares, then given to individual copiers and finally reassembled for printing. Individual pages are often framed by collectors. Many Civil War black and white lithographs on display in homes at that time were taken from these magazines. We have assessed these precious volumes, repaired where needed, and taken the time to point out highlighted articles of each volume.

STAN DAILY ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP

from the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden



Stan Daily [1935-2016]
Camarillo Mayor Emeritus

The scholarship is offered to students living in the Pleasant Valley area including Camarillo, Somis, and the Santa Rosa Valley, who write an original research paper on local history.

An award of \$1,000 may be made to a graduating senior, who produces the best qualifying piece.

The subject must be related to the history of the Pleasant Valley area.

Refer to the PVHM&G website pvhsonline.org/scholarship to view examples of previous winners' essays.

Deadline for submission is **April 29, 2026**

Send submissions to: pvhmag@gmail.com

For further information, please leave a message at:
pvhsonline.org/contact-us/ or 805-482-3660

Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden

2026 Don and Doña Nomination and Selection

Since the Pleasant Valley Historical Society's inception, Don and Doña honors have been awarded to individuals who have shown dedication to the community. The PVHS Museum displays six scrapbooks filled with information about previous honorees beginning with the year 1965. We are once again looking for the names of local citizens to receive the recognition of Don or Doña for this year.

We invite you to submit nominations for the 2026 Dons and Doñas. Nominations are accepted until **May 31, 2026**

Following that date the Don and Doña Selection Committee will meet to consider all nominations. As stated in the Nomination Form included in this ECHO, all nominations are confidential and only known by this committee. The Committee will review the nominations for selection in the 2026 group.

The PVHS Board hosts a get acquainted reception for the honorees and the Board in August. The Annual Don and Doña BBQ to honor the recipients will be held on **September 12, 2026** at the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Parks District Community Center. We look forward to receiving your nominations. Make your plans now for the BBQ and submit those applications for this year's class of Dons and Doñas. For further information please send an email to bburrow1@msn.com.

The 2026 Dons & Doñas Nomination Form is on the following page:

Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden

Serving Camarillo, Somis and Santa Rosa Valley since 1964
720 N. Las Posas Road, P. O. Box 570, Camarillo CA 93011
Phone 805 482-3660 Website: www.pvhsonline.org

NOMINATION FORM

Selection of 2026 DONS and DOÑAS

Persons being nominated for a Don or Doña shall be:

An individual who has lived in the Camarillo, Somis or Santa Rosa Valley area for at least twenty years, and has provided outstanding community service for a minimum of ten years within these areas, and/or to the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden during that time.

Nominee's Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

The names submitted consideration shall be kept CONFIDENTIAL and shall only be made known to the Dons and Doñas Selection Committee.

History of Nominee's Service:

Please attach additional page(s) if more space is required.

Submitted by: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Completed Nomination Form must be mailed with a post mark date no later than **May 31, 2026**.

Send to: PVHS Dons and Doñas Selection Committee, P. O. Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011

Museum Expansion Update

The next phase of the PVH Museum Expansion will be site improvements. **This is necessary so that the water line can be installed for the fire sprinklers required to serve the museum building.** In addition to the water line, it is necessary to install the lines for the landscape irrigation valves as well as the conduits for the parking lot lights. They all need to be done at the same time. As a result, we have had to pause construction to coordinate the site improvements for this phase as well as raise sufficient funds to cover the expenses.

Also, at this point, the parking lot grading and curbing can be installed ahead of the base and pavement improvements for the parking lot. Once that is completed, then we will be able to finish the interior, which is ready for the insulation and drywall which are already on-site. Picture is of present condition of the parking lot:



There are many other details that will be coordinated so that the museum will be brought up to code for accessibility, fire safety, security, convenience and such. In the meantime, the garden is being tended to, and all other aspects of the museum are being handled, including accessions, the ECHO and public outreach through presentations.

One new consideration is that the City is currently planning on constructing a new pump station at the northeast corner of the site next to the current water facility. As you know, the City leases us the property for the museum and garden. The site was previously the water department site prior to the move to the City

Corp Yard. The pump station will aid in the distribution of water and allow for the use of local water as opposed to more costly imported water. The City continues to look toward the present and future water needs for the community.

In the meantime, your assistance is greatly needed and appreciated to help fund this important building expansion project. So far, the building shell is well underway to allow for a nearly doubling of the floor area for the displays and activity areas for the future. The project is very visible along Las Posas Road. It's looking great!

Please consider contributing to Pleasant Valley Historical Society expansion project and **BE PART OF HISTORY.** Contributions can be made directly through the website, www.pvhsonline.org or by mail at PVHS, PO Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011.

Save the Date: September 12, 2026 - *Don & Doña Award BBQ*

Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden 2025-2026 Officers

President: Mary Ann Novak, Vice-President: Bob Burrow, Recording Secretary: Mary Goldberg,
Corresponding Secretary: Bill Todd; Treasurer: Bob Rust

Donations Received December 23rd through March 15th, 2026

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Donations from Fred Phipps & Cathy Trainer in memory of: Mr. Bill Riggs, Rev. Dr. Lee Truman

Donations from Bill & Joy Todd in memory of: Robert De La Torre, Roger Whitlock

Donation in memory of Marilyn Bundy from: Bob & Olivia Fulkerson

Donation in memory of Dr. Fleet Rust from: David Hibbits

TRIBUTES

Tribute in honor of Jerrie Newman's 100th birthday from:

Karen Allen, Judi Gill, Joanne Isaksen, Gloria Miele, Marianne Slaughter, Ed & Diane Zeamba

BUILDING and other DONATIONS

<i>Helen Andrews</i>	<i>Anonymous X2</i>	<i>Eric Bergh</i>
<i>Dave & Linda Bratz</i>	<i>Mike Bridges</i>	<i>Gail Brockett</i>
<i>Donna Burger</i>	<i>Judy Calise</i>	<i>Lloyd Christie</i>
<i>Melissa Cohen</i>	<i>Leora Conner</i>	<i>Mary Cordonier</i>
<i>CalRTA-Div 28</i>	<i>Heather Daily</i>	<i>Gail DeWolfe</i>
<i>Faragher Family Trust</i>	<i>Mark Farrin</i>	<i>Helen Faul</i>
<i>Janice Garner</i>	<i>Cris & Bill Garlington</i>	<i>Mary Goldberg</i>
<i>Ann Gross</i>	<i>Stella Harter</i>	<i>Rod & Doris Harvey</i>
<i>Joey Hernandez</i>	<i>David Hibbits</i>	<i>Eleanor James</i>
<i>Margaret Keyes</i>	<i>Liz & Joe Loll</i>	<i>Tom & Eileen Maloney</i>
<i>Nobuko McClure</i>	<i>Neale McNutt</i>	<i>Mary Ann Novak</i>
<i>Lou Oliver</i>	<i>Evaristo Orosco</i>	<i>Darren Patnoe</i>
<i>Fred Penney</i>	<i>Fred Phipps</i>	<i>Luci Pommers</i>
<i>Susana Reeder</i>	<i>James & Linda Reynolds</i>	<i>Mike & Joy Ritchie</i>
<i>Mandee Sanderson</i>	<i>Scott Family Trust</i>	<i>Snow Family</i>
<i>Greg Speth</i>	<i>Carol Spracklen</i>	<i>Debra Thiessen</i>
<i>Michael & Miriam Timrott</i>	<i>Catheryn Trainer</i>	<i>Michael Varosky</i>
<i>Richard Wagner</i>	<i>Cathy & Ken Waltrip</i>	<i>Judith Wilcoxson</i>

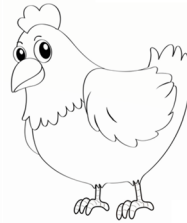
**Let's Take Out
Chicken BBQ Pick-up**

For a delicious dinner, update your calendar to include the following dates:

- April 8, 2026 (Wednesday)**
- May 6, 2026 (Wednesday)**
- June 10, 2026 (Wednesday)**

Support the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden

Chicken BBQ Pick-Up



Still \$15

Grilled Chicken Breast
w/ Ginger Peach Glaze
German Cole Slaw
[no mayonnaise]
Vegetarian Beans
Garlic Bread
Ginger Cookies

NEXT:

April 8th [Wednesday]

5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
at

Camarillo Christian Church
1777 Arneill Road
[corner of Las Posas]

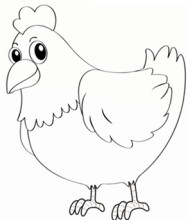
MUST RESERVE by previous Saturday [4-4-26].

Call 805-482-3660, or email: pvhmag@gmail.com

Pay at pick-up with cash, check payable to PVHS; or PayPal [including CC] at PVHSONline.org

Support the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden

Chicken BBQ Pick-Up



Still \$15

Grilled Chicken Breast
w/ Ginger Peach Glaze
German Cole Slaw
[no mayonnaise]
Vegetarian Beans
Garlic Bread
Ginger Cookies

NEXT:

May 6th [Wednesday]

5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
at

Camarillo Christian Church
1777 Arneill Road
[corner of Las Posas]

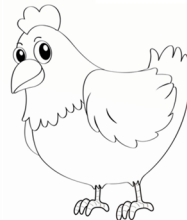
MUST RESERVE by previous Saturday [5-2-26].

Call 805-482-3660, or email: pvhmag@gmail.com

Pay at pick-up with cash, check payable to PVHS; or PayPal [including CC] at PVHSONline.org

Support the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden

Chicken BBQ Pick-Up



Still \$15

Grilled Chicken Breast
w/ Ginger Peach Glaze
German Cole Slaw
[no mayonnaise]
Vegetarian Beans
Garlic Bread
Ginger Cookies

NEXT:

June 10th [Wednesday]

5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
at

Camarillo Christian Church
1777 Arneill Road
[corner of Las Posas]

MUST RESERVE by previous Saturday [6-6-26].

Call 805-482-3660, or email: pvhmag@gmail.com

Pay at pick-up with cash, check payable to PVHS; or PayPal [including CC] at PVHSONline.org

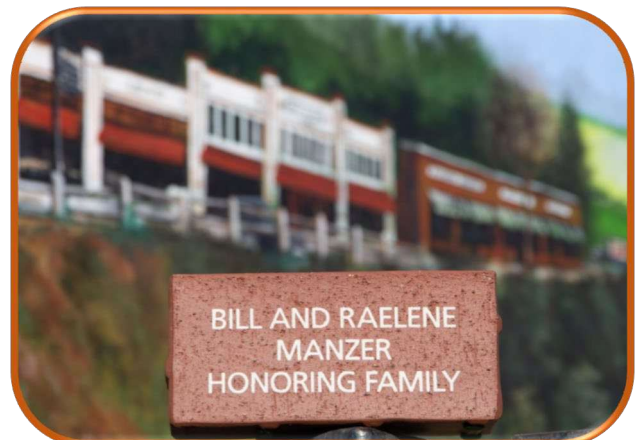
Museum Expansion Fundraising: Sponsoring a Personalized Brick

The Personalized Brick Fundraising Campaign is doing its part in the Museum Expansion Fundraising program. Since the Personalized Brick Campaign launch in July of 2021, and running through present, 378 bricks have already been ordered. The popularity of the Personalized Bricks has continued to escalate after the Expansion Building Groundbreaking Event in 2022, and popularity will continue through the construction project. Sponsoring a Personalized Brick today will ensure delivery with the first batch of bricks and secure an early prime location for the displaying of your brick.

Sponsoring a personalized 4" x 8" brick, which will be located and displayed at the PVHM&G Museum outdoor location, is more than a \$200 donation to the PVHS Museum Expansion fund:

- 1) A brick can be personalized with your name, and/or your family's name, allowing you to be part of the PVHS Museum history.
- 2) Or, a brick can be personalized to honor anyone, or anything, you want to be remembered.

The form to reserve and sponsor a personalized brick is displayed on the following page:



PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum Expansion Project



Personalized
Brick
Display
Patio

Buy your brick
with a click...



"Be a Part of History"

Reserve a place in PVHS Museum history by sponsoring a personalized brick to be installed on site as part of the project. You may sponsor a brick in your name or to honor anyone or anything you want to be remembered.

PLEASE PRINT, maximum 16 spaces per line, including blank spaces and punctuation. All inscriptions will be centered and capitalized. Filler in the engraved area will provide a permanent contrast and protect the quality of the engraving.

Enclosed is my \$200.00 contribution for a 4" x 8" paver with up to three lines of text.

Make checks payable to *Pleasant Valley Historical Society*; or to use PayPal (PayPal allows payment with a Credit Card), please visit our website at *pvhsonline.org* and use the PERSONALIZED BRICK button at the top of the webpage.

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Please mail this completed form to:
P.V.H.S.
PO Box 570, Camarillo, CA 93011-0570

April 2026

The mission of the Pleasant Valley Historical Museum & Garden is to acquire, identify, restore and preserve artifacts, documents and photographs related to the Pleasant Valley community; to make the museum and garden a focal point for the dissemination of local history and education of the general public, and to recognize local residents who have provided outstanding service to the Pleasant Valley community.



PLEASANT VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM & GARDEN

Established 1964

Location: 720 Las Posas Road, Camarillo
(Presently closed for Construction)

Mailing Address: PVHS, PO Box 570,
Camarillo, CA 93011-0570

Telephone: (805) 482-3660

Email: pvhmag@gmail.com

Website: pvhsonline.org

Newsletter Editor: Manny Hatz

PVHM&G – The Echo



PVHM&G – Home Page



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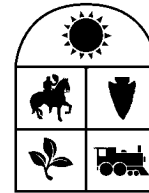
<https://www.instagram.com/pvhsmuseum>



Follow us on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/>

Search: pleasant valley historical society



**Pleasant Valley
Historical Society**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Permit No. 128

Oxnard, CA

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U.S. Postage

Non-Profit Org.

Camarillo, CA 93011-0570

P.O. Box 570

Pleasant Valley Historical Society