

**The Old Stone House:
A History
By
Douglas Sturm**

In 1965, my wife, Margie, and I, together with our sons, Hans (age 5) and Rolf (age 3), entered into the ongoing history of an Old Stone House on the banks of the Susquehanna River located in what is now Lewisburg, PA. And there, Margie and I continued to live for 34 years. Its location—in the current designation of the US Postal Service—is 37 South Water Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

A house, it should be understood, is far more than a building. It is a history, or more precisely, a story of stories. As it evolves from year to year, it changes in important ways.



The William Williams House, 37 S. Water St., Lewisburg 1786

During that time, stories about the house are told and passed on across generations—some susceptible to scholarly verification, others not—yet each is part of its overall history, enriching its residents and envioning community.

In its beginning, this Old Stone House emerged from a tract of land of about 320 acres

acquired in 1773 by Ludwig Derr from Richard Peters of Philadelphia, Secretary of the Land Office for the William Penn family. The tract bordered on the West bank of the Susquehanna River just south of Buffalo Creek—at that time part of Northumberland County.

In 1785, Derr determined to create a town within that property, securing the services of Samuel Weiser, a surveyor, to design a pattern of streets to some of which Derr assigned names of members of his family. The town's original name, Derrstown, was later changed by the populace to Lewisburg (Lewis is an anglophilic version of Ludwig). In Derr's sketch South Water Street, closest street to the River, was but one block long and remains as such. A later map extends South Water Street as far as St. George Street, yet that is unlikely. Strangely, it seems that Ludwig Derr, a few years after inaugurating this development, traveled to Philadelphia, then simply disappeared from the scene, his son George assuming management of the territory. In fairly quick succession, George sold the land to a Dutch merchant, who then sold it to Carrel Ellinkhursen, who in turn bestowed it on his son.

William Williams, who purchased directly from Derr in 1786 the land on which this Old Stone House is located, constructed both the stone house and a store. The store's location on this spot is most likely explained by the presence of a dam across the river slightly to its South. Rivers, at that time, were a major means of transportation with dams providing for the development of commercial activity wherever they were positioned. Williams' store, it has been suggested, was the primary trading post of Derrstown, and, as such, became a center for social interaction and political discourse. Remnants of the dam remain evident even yet in the twenty first century, especially when the river's waters are low.



37 S. Water St. from the rear yard, showing the conjoined frame building.

The house, when we purchased it in 1965, consisted of two conjoined parts. The fore part (facing the river) was a two story, four room structure with unfinished basement and

attic, made of field stone quarried most likely from a local source. The aft part—offset by about three feet to the South—was a frame building lacking basement and attic. At the time of our acquisition, these two structures were joined, but, it seems, originally they may have been separate from each other. More on that below. Several years ago the Old Stone House was named “the oldest surviving dwelling on the plat laid out” in 1785 [3].

In architectural design, the Old Stone House is described by one source as “Federal—plain, regular, orderly” [1], but by another as “a two-story, three-bay vernacular building constructed in rubble stone masonry” [3]. The latter source also comments the “the house has a simple molded cornice and window openings spanned by decorative jack arches.”

Williams, obviously an energetic entrepreneur, contributed to the enhancement of commerce in this portion of the town not only with his trading center. He is said to have initiated ferry service across the river to convey wagons to and from a dirt road running along its eastern bank [1, 2].

Describing the character of this part of town during its early years, an article in *The Daily Item* (March 30, 1997) was headlined, “Lewisburg's riverfront streets share a rowdy past.” The reporter documents this judgment in part by conjectured uses of the Williams' property during the late eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries. These alleged uses, along with other matters, pose a series of yet unanswered questions.

Brothel. Some say that 37 South Water Street served river men (maybe others) as a brothel. When, under whose management, and in which portion of the house (stone or frame) have never been documented, although some suggest that the ghosts (friendly) of these sex workers continue to hover about the premises on occasion.

School. Some say that an early school was located on the property. Again, when, in which building, and under whose auspices are matters unanswered. Margie and I, as might be expected, are rather fond of this possibility given our own professional careers as educators.

Pub and Wine Cellar. Again, some historical commentators suggest that the property housed a pub. Intriguingly, it has been proposed that perhaps the pub included a tunnel between the Old Stone House and the handsome brick building next door (41 South Water). That building includes a strikingly fantastic vaulted brick basement, a perfect setting for a wine cellar, lending some slight credence to that story. However, the only evidence of the alleged tunnel is located on the north side of the brick house nearest to the front where, at ground level, there appears the outline of the top of a door later removed and bricked in.

Other, less dramatic, but no less intriguing questions about the Old Stone House also remain unanswered yet add to its long history.

Cement Porch and Front Door. At the time of our acquisition of the property the front entrance into the Old Stone House was situated at its southeast corner facing the river, requiring several steps up onto a rather massive concrete porch that extends beyond the south side of the house itself. Obviously both porch and steps were a late addition, most likely, some say, in the early decades of the 20th century, by a Mr. Wendel who at the time owned the property and was in the concrete business. Stylistically, this addition ill befits the architecture of the original house; however, eclecticism is often the fate of antique houses.

An added curiosity respecting the original front entrance to the Old Stone House is located on the inside front wall of the basement, where the outlines of a door, now stoned in, are discernible. Whether, as this seems to intimate, the original front door was located below



Walled in basement doorway in the wall facing Water Street

ground level remains undetermined, although, if so, it would match a similar entrance still in use at the basement's northwest corner facing the rear of the house. That entrance opens to a set of steps leading outdoors to ground level.

Basement: Natural Drain and Supportive Structure. Over the decades, aspects of the basement have been altered in various ways. Originally in the Old Stone House, the basement was most likely dirt. However, at some time a partial cement floor was added, perhaps to accommodate the installation of central heating, leaving one sizeable section open to the ground, although roughly covered with a moveable wooden platform. We were informed that the open spot was, in effect, a “natural drain,” serving a critical function on those occasions when the river flooded. As a matter of record, the West Branch of the Susquehanna River at Lewisburg from 1865 to 2011 suffered five major and nine moderate floods. During our

tenure in the house, we experienced the effects of one major (1972) and four moderate inundations. We can testify that, on those occasions, the drain, in fact, served such a function.

The centerpiece of the supportive structure of the house is a remarkably hefty wooden beam running north and south across the building's midpoint resting at each end on an indentation in the stone wall. As usual in such structures, joists run in a perpendicular direction, resting on notches in the central beam at one end and similar indentations in the



Main basement support beam with replaced end and newer support column

stonework at their other end. It seems that over the decades those portions of the beam and some of the joists resting on stone suffered from decay requiring remedial action. In the case of the beam, it appears that at each of its ends a short and slightly smaller beam was introduced resting in the stone wall and then, where it abuts the original beam (with the decay removed), both are supported by a sturdy square brick pillar.

As joists suffered from a similar fate, steel jack posts were installed when and where necessary, leaving the basement with, in appearance, a grove-like cluster of steel posts scattered throughout, some added during our own residency in the house.

Electric, Gas, Heating, and Water Systems. Most certainly, the Old Stone House was lacking these more modern systems and their respective conveniences for over a century. The house was heated originally by its four fireplaces, with light during evening hours probably provided by candles and kerosene lamps. Water must have been hauled from a well (its location is unknown). Cooking stoves were fueled by wood or coal. What specific years these modern systems were introduced is uncertain, likely in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

When we acquired the house a fuel oil furnace was located in the basement, employed

to heat and circulate water via a network of baseboard piping running throughout all rooms. The necessary exhaust system for the furnace appropriated the flues of the first and second floor fireplaces on the back section of the house. At that time, these two fireplaces were closed off and covered over leaving visible only a slight portion of their respective stone hearths. The other two fireplaces on the front of the house—downstairs living room and upstairs bedroom—were left open, though, given the absence of dampers, seldom used, stuffed instead with papers to reduce heat loss.

Similar changes to the structure of the Old Stone House (once joined to the frame house) occurred as other systems were introduced: electricity, water and plumbing, gas (for cooking)—resulting in a tangle of pipes and wires altogether detracting from the original appearance of the building especially on its inside, demonstrating that the conveniences of modern technology trump the purity of antique structures—for better or worse. Recent residents have added dampers in the useable fireplaces and centralized air conditioning.

Bathrooms. The addition of bathrooms to the house, upstairs and downstairs, the former roughly above the latter, contributes to the puzzle about when the stone house and the frame house were joined. When these bathrooms were introduced, they were located not in the Old Stone House, but in the fore part of the frame house contiguous with the back wall of the stone structure, yet also extending out from the north wall of the frame house. That particular placement of the bathrooms might well suggest that, at that time, the stone and the frame houses had been previously separate from each other, but were conjoined in order to provide for these “modern” conveniences and make them accessible to both of the older buildings.

A Sizeable Step Up and an Altered Staircase. Possibly supporting that conjecture are two noticeable features also on the inside of the house at the point where the stone and frame structures are fused. First, both the first and second floor passageways from the stone house to the frame house require a considerable step up (approx. 12 inches). To be sure, the land from South Water Street to Walnut Alley (along the back property line) slants up appreciably, although it would have been easy to compensate for that had the two structures been joined at the start.

Second, close scrutiny of the top of the staircase to the second floor (which rests against the south wall of the stone house) at the top point of its newel suggests originally the final step required a ninety degree turn to the right onto the upstairs hallway. Currently, however, the

final step is straight ahead, precisely at the placement of the large step up from the stone house into the frame house, and near (on the right) to the entrance to the upstairs bathroom. The alteration of the staircase, in short, was needed to accommodate the addition of the bathroom and the joining of the two buildings.

Rounded Archways: An Anomaly. Possibly adding to that thesis is the presence of two decorative rounded archways at the top of the stairs. Passage through one happens as one steps from the staircase to the upstairs onto a floor at the height of the frame house. The other archway marks the large step down onto the (lower) hallway in the stone house. Architecturally the rounded archways clash with the original style of the Old Stone House. However, since the tops of the twin archways are of the same height, they seem to compensate visually for the difference in height of the two floors.



2nd Floor Archways between stone and frame buildings

In sum, whatever the reasons for joining the two houses, it seems likely that these changes—the addition of bathrooms, the altered staircase, and the rounded archways—all occurred at the same time, perhaps about 100 years ago.

Bay Window. A one-story three-panel bay window jutting out from the south wall of the Old Stone House was also introduced at some time in its later history, breaking the stylistic lines of the original structure, yet most likely added for good reason, primarily to provide more light and warmth from the sun during daytime hours and, secondarily, to allow a more expansive view of the river. The bay window may have replaced a regularly sized window, but that is unknown.

In either case, the bay window compensates for the notable lack of windows on both

the north and the south walls of the Old Stone House. The north wall (with only a small attic opening) lacks windows because it contains the extensive and intricate chimney system accommodating the four fireplaces. Respecting the south wall, all three staircases (basement to first floor, first to second floor, and second floor to attic) rest against it, making it awkward to place windows there (again, except for an attic opening). Five windows grace its front wall (plus a small basement opening and a half-window on the entrance door). How many were on its original back wall (prior to the joining of the wooden and stone houses) are unknown; currently there are two. Possibly, the bay window was added when the two houses were attached, resulting in the removal of two or more windows on the back wall together with the subsequent need for more light in the hallway and up the stairs.

The construction of the bay window required the removal of a portion of the south stonewall and the addition of a support structure, evident in the basement. Also evident in the basement is the removal of a portion of the back stonewall, allowing access from the original basement to a rather skimpy crawl space under the frame house providing access to piping and wiring.

Hurricane Agnes Flood (1972). As noted, we experienced the effects of one major flood during our tenure in the Old Stone House, resulting in the need for extensive repair. Flood



Flood of 1936

waters filled the basement bottom to top, reaching to about five and one-half feet on the first story. A photograph of the house (now in the possession of its current resident) in a previous major flood (1936) manifests a similar depth. We were strongly advised in 1972 not to initiate any major renovations for a full year, allowing ample time for the house to dry out thoroughly and to rid it of all mildew and mold. That we did, then proceeded with several reconstructions.

1. Re-mortaring (pointing) the stone walls. In general, mortar used to bind bricks or

stone together is susceptible to decay, ultimately disintegration. The Old Stone House had apparently not been re-mortared over many years, and the waters of the 1972 flood weakened its walls appreciably. Needing to restore the mortar throughout the entire structure top to bottom, we sought a mason versed in antique stone houses. At the advice of local experts, we secured the services of Parker Boop from Glenn Iron who, with two sons, undertook the task, though, at his insistence, we had to secure all the appropriate materials and scaffolding for him and he was to be paid in cash for his labor at the end of each week's work. With his advice and our ready acquiescence, the mortar was (slowly, but expertly) inserted flush between the stone, without decorative protrusion.

2. Re-plastering internal walls. Obviously, the flood raised havoc with plastered walls and ceilings throughout the downstairs rooms. Margie and I first removed multiple layers of wallpaper all of which were of a dark hue, uncovering horsehair plaster that we also removed down to the lath. We secured a team of plasterers from Mifflinburg to do the restoration who at first balked when Margie announced her desire to install an “old fashioned” style of plaster, but who, when finished, expressed their approval of the result. We then had all walls and ceilings painted white.

3. Electrical system. We were required to rewire the entire electrical system throughout the house, and did so, while replacing an old fuse box with a circuit breaker bringing the entire system up to the current code.

4. Flooring. Originally, the floors throughout the stone house consisted of soft wood boards of variable width. However, throughout the downstairs, the flooring was “modernized,” most likely during the early decades of the twentieth century according to a local floor specialist, by covering the original boards with a thin veneer of narrow and notched hardwood strips—many of which over subsequent years of use had cracked and broken. Moreover, the ravages of the 1972 flood resulted in some buckling of the boards. Rather than replace the entire floor during our post-flood renovation to replicate its original style, we accepted the advice of the specialist to do repairs as needed, then lightly sand and refinish the entire surface. After all, historic buildings, while they may represent an earlier time, are destined by the sheer force of history to change; efforts at full fledged restoration are themselves almost inevitably cosmetic.

5. Fireplace facade. However restoration is not always futile, as evidenced by a change induced by the flood's effects on our first floor front room fireplace. When we acquired the

Old Stone House, the wooden facade of that fireplace seemed somewhat out of sync with the style of the house, manifest especially in the character of its mantle (compared with its parallel in an upstairs bedroom). During the initial clean up following the flood, the entire wooden facade of that fireplace seemed to have loosened from the wall. With one slight touch, the entire facade came crashing to the floor, revealing a beautiful stone front that had been hidden from view. From a pile of scrap wood in the attic we retrieved a piece that matched the upstairs mantle, and enabled us, in our judgment, to accomplish one small work of genuine restoration.



Stone fireplace revealed below covering facade.

Doorways. From appearances, the doorways from the hall to the downstairs rooms and between the rooms themselves were all at some point widened and doors were removed, presumably with the introduction of central heating. As a result, the entire downstairs of the Old Stone House would have seemed far more spacious and admitted far more light than previously. That effect was enhanced when, following the flood, we removed dark wallpaper and painted walls and ceilings white.

Upstairs Rooms. Undamaged by the 1972 flood were the two dominant rooms on the upstairs of the stone house, both seemingly intended as bedrooms. The front room retains, in our judgment, the basic features of its 18th century origin. Its fireplace, though unused, remains intact; the character of its closets, its window and door frames seem original; its wide board flooring appears not to have changed.

The back room, however, has been transformed in significant ways. Its fireplace, given the introduction of central heating, has been almost entirely hidden. Those from whom we purchased the property, to accommodate allergies of their older son, paneled all the walls and inserted a false ceiling. Only the flooring remains intact.

A Third Small Room. Entrances to each of the two dominant rooms are from a hallway running from the top of the stairway toward the front of the building. Just beyond the doorway of the front bedroom, however, the hallway ends with a door entering a very small space with a window facing the street and from which rises the stairway to the attic. That small space was used as a bedroom by the previous owners, but then as a hideaway study for Margie during her high school teaching career.



Notched beams in the attic of stone section;
stone-enclosed flues against end wall.

The Frame House. Among the historical mysteries that remains unresolved is whether the frame house, now integrated with the stone house, was constructed by William Williams in 1786 to serve as his store, later to be used for other purposes. Among notable differences that may bear on that mystery are its flooring and roofing. Where floors throughout the stone house were constructed originally with soft wood in variable widths, the floors in the frame house (except for the kitchen and bathroom) consisted, it appears, of hard wood of uniform width.

In the case of roofing materials, when we acquired the property the stone house was covered with vintage gray slate tiles while the roof of the conjoined frame house consisted of asphalt shingles. Many of the slate tiles at that time were badly deteriorated and had begun to leak. Given the counsel of David Arndt, a local contractor with respect for antique houses, we introduced metal roofing to replace the slate, following as well his advice about its continuing

care. What other alterations of roofing may have occurred to these buildings over their lifetime remain lost to our ken.

Asbestos Siding. The siding on frame house when acquired consisted of white asbestos shingles. We were informed that this sort of siding had become popular in this region several decades ago because of its durability and easy care, needing only to be repainted occasionally. However, keenly aware of the discreditable history of the asbestos industry and the serious health hazards of the material, we considered replacement, but, sorry to admit, postponed that project. We have no evidence of the building's original siding.

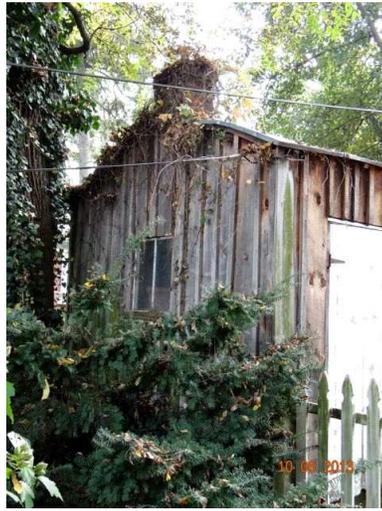
Frame House Alterations: Upstairs. The owners of the property from whom we purchased it, Edward and Viola Partridge, altered both the upstairs and downstairs rooms of the frame house. The upstairs of the frame house consists of two successive rooms (without hallway) that might well serve as small bedrooms. However, to accommodate an elderly parent/grandparent, the Partridges transformed the backmost room into a small kitchen with needed appliances and counter space, using the front room as bedroom and living space. The grandparent shared the upstairs bath with the family. Added to this mini-apartment was a back entrance including a porch and outside stair to the ground (creating in effect a fire escape from the rear of the building). We removed the appliances and counters, and used the two rooms as, respectively, a bedroom and a study.

Frame House Alterations: Downstairs. The front room of the downstairs is framed with an outside door on the south side of the house; the entrance to the downstairs bathroom on the north; a step down into the hallway of the stone house on the east; and an open door entrance to the kitchen on the west. That space served as a playroom for our sons and their neighborhood friends when young, thereafter, as they entered their teen years, as a dining room.

The major alteration to the frame house introduced by the previous owners was to enlarge and modernize the kitchen adding to it a cozy dining nook and providing a wide three-paneled window opening to the backyard. This major alteration was accomplished by enclosing a catchall shed previously located at the back of the house. The primary impetus for this major reconstruction came from Viola Partridge, who, besides her professional work as a mathematician, was a gourmet cook.

Shed. At the rear of the land, a small nondescript wooden shed is located facing Walnut Alley, very near an old walnut tree. Over the years we used it for various purposes at

different times—storage, play space, garage—not suspecting it had ever played an important role in the life of the Old Stone House, even though we had noticed a dilapidated chimney on its roof.



Shed with chimney at rear of the property lot

We learned differently, however, when Margie noticed a man and woman taking photographs of our house. Initiating conversation with them, she learned he was a grandson of Martin Hahn, who with his wife had once resided in the Old Stone House during the early years of prohibition. The shed, they informed us, had been originally a “summer kitchen,” but



Martin “Royal Hen” Hahn

when prohibition was in force Martin had transformed the kitchen into space for a moonshine still distributing its product for local use. Martin's wife kept watch for possible “revenoors” (a term originally used to designate liquor tax collectors, applied later to officers enforcing

prohibition), signaling him when suspecting their presence to cover the moonshine apparatus. A photo of Martin Hahn was discovered in Bucknell's archives by William Wiest, the archivist. An enlarged copy of the photo, showing Hahn in a somewhat unkempt three-piece suit with top hat is in the possession of the current owner of the Old Stone House, Isabella O'Neil. As an aside, during the same period of time another man about town, perhaps an acquaintance of Martin, was known to walk the streets of Lewisburg leading a pet goose on a leash.

Property Line. From some now forgotten source, a story about the property line on the south side of the Old Stone House came to our attention. The next door brick house, already mentioned, was constructed some decades after the stone house was in place. When the brick house was completed, however, the owner of the stone house brought a legal suit against its owner declaring that the north wall of the brick house was over the property line and demanding therefore that it be immediately removed. At the court hearing, the presiding judge was reported to have placed a map of the relevant property before himself, and re-drawn the property line to incorporate the wall in question onto the land of the brick house, and pronouncing that from henceforth that what he had drawn would constitute the legally recognized line. With that judgment, he dismissed the case. That line, so indented, remains in effect according to present day courthouse records.

Social interaction. A house, I have declared, is more than a building; it is a historical happening, a story of stories, whose structure and use are susceptible to constant transformation for many reasons, the most important of which are its inhabitants. The notability of any particular house is contingent in part on the interests and character of those inhabitants and their interactions with others. Stories of William Williams, Mr. Wendel, and Martin Hahn are cases in point. Another was Dr. John W. Rice, a long time and distinguished professor of biology at Bucknell, who in 1925 instituted a medical dispensary on the campus that has continued ever since. The Old Stone House was home for him and his family, several of whom remained in or returned to Lewisburg.

During our early years in the house, we were among about ten families in the immediate area with young children of roughly the same age, all of whom treated their several properties as open space, an inclusive playground available for snow ball fights, hide-and-seek games, explorations along the riverbanks or whatever. Sometimes three or four youngsters would appropriate our rowboat (with lifejackets) to extend their play to local "islands" — named by them "Big Ducky" and "Little Ducky."

Later, during the course of Margie's twenty-year tenure as a high school English teacher, many of her students came to the house, sometimes for counseling, assistance on assignments, even escape from family circumstances, but oftentimes as well for pot luck dinners open to one or another of her classes, following which they would together attend a performance of some sort at Bucknell.



Margie Sturm at home in 37 S. Water St. in the 1990s

Moreover, both Margie and I have been active in diverse community associations, using the house as a location to advance their respective missions, e.g., Women in Transition; Democratic Women of Buffalo Valley; regional chapter of the ACLU; Community Alliance for Respect and Equality (CARE); Social Concerns Team of the Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church.

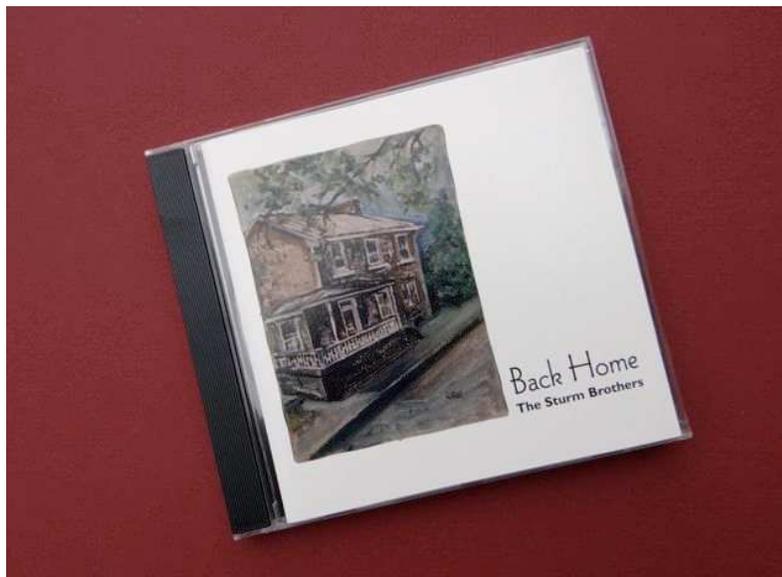
Other times, families and friends would converge at the house, e.g., to prepare for Christmas caroling; to picnic during an Independence Day celebration; to gather around our piano singing Labor Union songs, Gospel music, or African American spirituals.

In sum, the Old Stone House, while it is a physical structure that has, over its lifetime, been altered in intriguing ways, has also served multiple functions throughout the larger community of the Central Susquehanna Valley—adding, at best, to its quality and to its future. To comprehend fully the significance and historical meaning of any building requires that we view it as an active and ever changing social location, contributing in one way or another to the lived experience of a people, their culture and their history.

A Postscript. Our sons, Hans and Rolf, both professional musicians, are now located in urban areas. Nonetheless they remain fond of Lewisburg and of the Old Stone House. In

1997, they released a compact disk, Back Home, to celebrate that love. The front cover of the CD is imprinted with a photograph of an oil painting of the house by Mary Alice Orr, long time friend and art teacher of the Lewisburg High School. The back cover includes a photo of the house from the same angle taken by the Terry Wild Studio in Williamsport. Hans and Rolf composed all the music on the disk, some pieces of which were inspired specifically by their early life in this region. The CD is their testimony to strongly rooted influences that eventuated in their respective adventures in life.

Yet the title of the CD, Back Home, should give us pause, for none of us can go “back home.” Houses and homes are historical entities. As such the Old Stone House is not now what it was during our sons' youthful years or, even more surely, what it was in its own beginning. And its tomorrow remains indeterminate. To be sure, efforts at strict historical preservation have their place, yet are, in the long haul, bound to fail, since all entities, whatever their composition, are doomed eventually to disintegrate and to slip into the swirling dust of the universe that continues to haunt us as an unraveled metaphysical mystery of life's origins and destiny.



Sources and Acknowledgements

(1) Lewisburg: History of 19th Century Lewisburg Architecture, John W. Anderson, et al. (Union County Tourist Promotion Agency, 1976).

This 48 page booklet was prepared on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

It contains multiple photographs, drawings, maps, and script arranged chronologically from the late eighteenth through the 20th century. It concludes with a brief vision of desirable changes following the devastation of the 1972 flood.

(2) [Lewisburg, Pennsylvania](#) (Wikipedia)

<[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewisburg, Pennsylvania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewisburg,_Pennsylvania)>

A typical Wikipedia article, ranging from the origins of the town to the present time.

(3) [Livingplaces...Lewisburg Borough](#),

<http://www.livingplaces.com/PA/Union_County/Lewisburg_Borough.html>

This piece contains a “brief history of Lewisburg,” extending from its beginning to the beginning of the 21st century.

(4) [Livingplaces...Lewisburg Historic District](#),

<http://www.livingplaces.com/PA/Union_County/Lewisburg_Borough/Lewisburg_Historic_District.html>

The contents of this lengthy article are described as follows: “The Lewisburg Historic District was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 2004. Portions of the text below were adapted from a copy of the original nomination document. Adaptation copyright © 2008, The Gombach Group.” At the end of the article are listed several sources useful for additional historical research into the changing character of Lewisburg over the decades.

(5) See Carrie A. Liberante, “Good Old Days, Lewisburg’s Riverfront Streets Share a Rowdy Past.” *The Daily Item*, March 30, 1997, pp. B1, B4. Liberante’s article contains pictures and discusses stories linked to the Williams house, including its possible use as a brothel and tavern, and the rumored surreptitious connection between the large, vaulted cellar of the house next door (41 S. Water St.) for liquor storage, sold at 37 S. Water St.

(6) This article has benefitted greatly from the interest and hospitality of the house’s current owner, Isabella O’Neill, who enabled us to take many of the illustrating photos found in this article and shared many stories and observations about the house.

