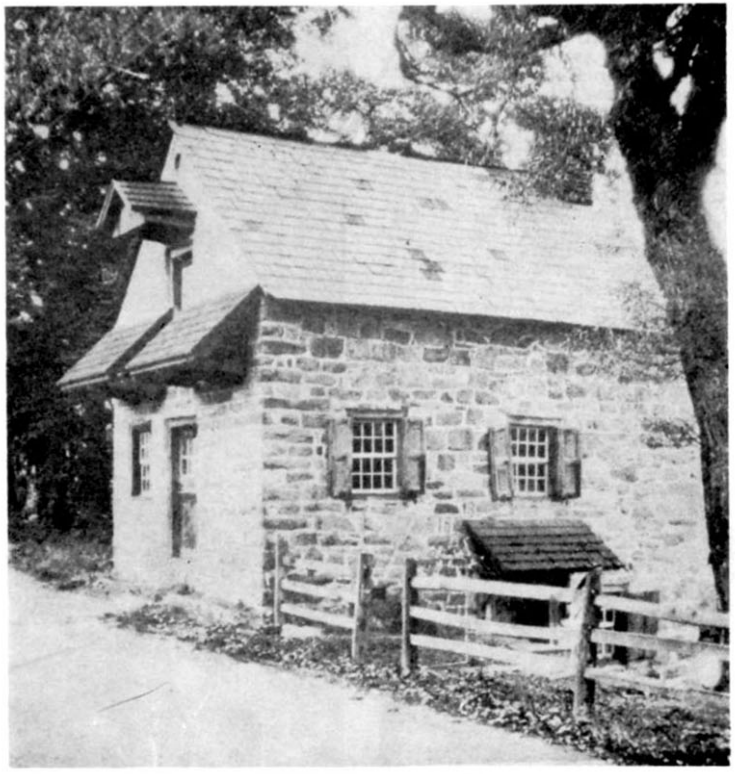
This Month In Reading

A Community Magazine for Reading and Berks County, Pa.

APRIL, 1969 25¢



DeTurk, House, Oley Valley

Oley Valley Tour Is Set For May 3

The annual historical tour of sites in the Oley Valley will be held on Saturday, May 3. The tour is sponsored by the Woman's Club of Oley, and funds derived from the tour will be used for restoration of the DeTurk House of Oley.

The tour will begin at 10 a.m. at the Oley Fair Grounds and will be concluded at 4 p.m. Included will be a homemade picnic at the Daniel Boone Homestead from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Featured on the tour will be visits to the sites of some of the early forges and furnaces along the Manatawny Creek, birthplace of the iron industry in Pennsylvania. Although this is not primarily an openhouse tour, two of the finest ironmaster's mansions, dating from the 1750s, will be open for inspection. They are the John Lesher House of Oley Forge and the John Potts House, Pottsgrove.

Reservations for the historical tour are limited to 200 people and may be made by contacting Mrs. M. L. Fox, Reading, R. D. 4.

The DeTurk House of Oley, pictured on the cover of this issue, is shown as it appeared in 1930. Subsequently the shutters and front door were removed and sold, the extending pent roof was knocked off by a truck, the slate roof deteriorated rapidly, and the stone walls buckled and cracked away at one corner.

Realizing the extreme threat to this historical landmark, the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County took action in 1966, obtaining a long-term lease of the property for the purpose of preservation and eventual restoration.

Repairs to the walls and foundations were made during the fall of 1966 and exterior restoration work is planned for the summer of 1969. This project is under the direction of the DeTurk House Council of the Historic Preservation Trust and is being supported by the Woman's Club of Oley through its annual historical tour.

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