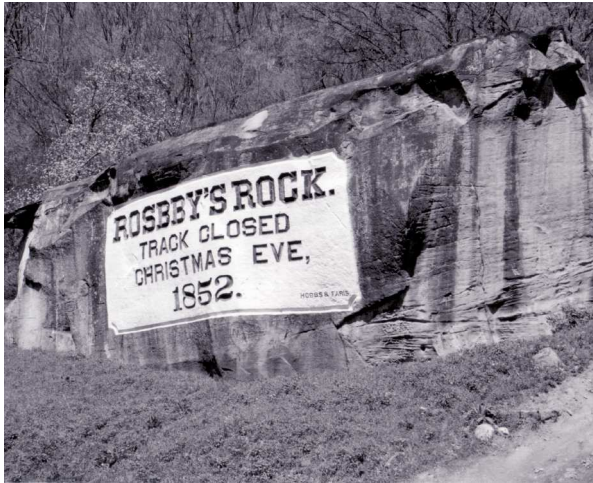


LOCAL HISTORICAL GROUP TO TOUR B & O REMNANTS



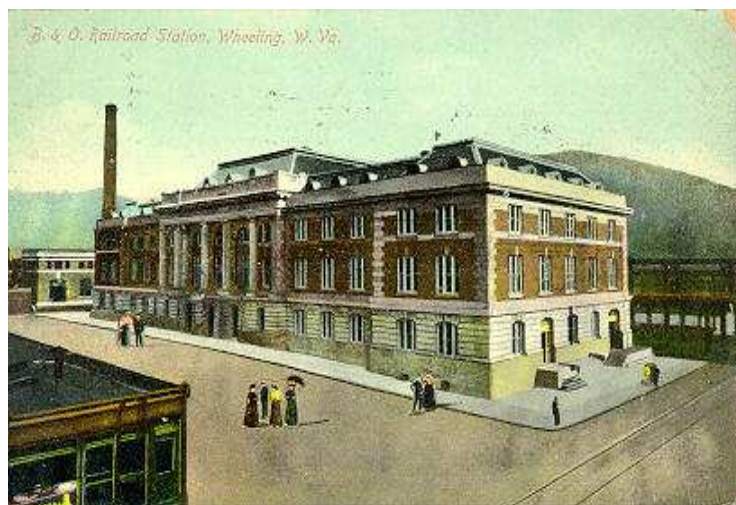
The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society will be sponsoring a local bus tour on Sunday afternoon, December 16, 2012 between 1:00 and 6:00 p.m.. The transportation for this event will be provided by OVRTA buses that will travel to Bellaire and the Great Stone Viaduct; Grave Creek and Roseby's Rock; and Wheeling to the former Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Station that today houses the West Virginia Northern Community College.

The local bus tour is a part of the mission of the GSV Society to keep alive the history of the Ohio Valley, and to encourage the study of local history. The bus trip is open to members of the GSV Society and to the general public. The cost of a ticket is \$20.00 for Charter Members of the Society, and \$25.00 to non-members. A sack lunch will be provided to all passengers.



December is an important month of the year for the former Baltimore & Ohio Railroad since on Christmas Eve in 1852, the B & O completed its iron road from Baltimore to Wheeling, Virginia. The track was closed at a point along Grave Creek in Marshall County thus connecting tidewater to the Ohio River after 25 years of difficult construction over the Allegheny Mountains. Some 20 years later, the B & O would cross the Ohio River between Benwood and Bellaire, and expand westward to the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. At the height of its glorious past, the B & O would build the grand railroad station in Wheeling that today houses the West Virginia Northern Community College in the first decade of the 20th Century.

The tour will visit the site of the Great Stone Viaduct at Bellaire, Ohio, and hear from GSV Society Trustees about the significance of this structure which is still in active use today carrying the railroad traffic of the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad, and CSX.



The viaduct itself consists of 43 sandstone arches passing from Union Street to Rose Hill. The group will also tour the site of the track closing of the B & O at Roseby's Rock some 160 years ago. The iron rails were abandoned some years ago, but the massive "Rock" with its famous engraving is still visible to those who know how to find it. Interesting presentations will be made by GSVSociety

Trustees about this famous site. The final leg of the trip will be the former B & O station in Wheeling. This magnificent structure was built over a century ago, yet continues today to influence the lives of residents of the Ohio Valley.

Charge the batteries in your camera, pick out a comfortable pair of shoes and warm clothes, and mail your reservation to GSVSociety, P.O. Box 129, Bellaire, Ohio 43906-0129. Anyone interested in joining this trip should contact the GSVSociety by email at GSVSociety@aol.com, telephone at 740-676-2743, or visit the website of the GSVSociety at www.greatstoneviaduct.org to request information.