

THE LANDMARK

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March/April 2009

Newsletter of the Friends of Old Annville
P.O. Box 99, Annville, PA 17003

President's Message from Owen Moe

The Annville National Historic District

As I was talking to some people from town recently I realized that they were only vaguely familiar with Annville's nationally-recognized historic district, and I wasn't too sure about many of the details either. As time passes by, it's easy to forget those details and, with them, the overall meaning of our town's historic value. So I thought it might be worthwhile to review the story of how and why a sizeable part of downtown Annville came to be included in the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places (<http://www.nps.gov/history/NR>) is the *official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation*. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register of Historic Places is part of a program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. Prior to 1979, only one building in Annville was included on the national register: the 1814 Beaver House on the NW corner of South White Oak and Queen Streets.

In the mid-1970's a group of people from Annville became concerned about the demolition of several historic buildings right in the center of town. That group, soon to play a role in the founding of Friends of Old Annville, began work on a formal nomination to the National Park Service for inclusion of the Annville Historic District (dark shaded area in map below) in the National Register. The group prepared a thorough survey of all of the buildings in the proposed district, took photographs of the streetscape, wrote a brief history of Annville, and submitted the application. On April 30, 1979, the Annville Historic District was accepted into the National Register.

The National Register has recognized that Annville, through its largely intact set of structures, shows the linear evolution of a small town from the early 1700's through the 1930's. While not all of the buildings would have qualified for the national register on an individual basis, the historic neighborhood as a whole was deemed significant. The Annville Township Historic Area Review Board (HARB) ordinance now



protects this collection of Annville buildings and the streetscape that it creates. Losing these buildings, one-by-one, here and there, erodes the historically significant streetscape, and that is the reason that Friends of Old Annville works for protection and restoration of each and every individual building in our historic district. ■

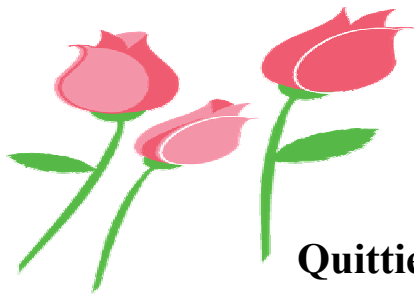
This Old Annville House Stripping Wood

Having put it off as long as possible, I recently stripped all the wood in my master bedroom, including 3 eight ft. windows, 4 doorways (2 with transoms) and yards of baseboard.

Fifty-three cumulative hours later, the beautiful, original chestnut wood shone through. I used wax-based **Klean-Strip** stripper (Lowe's) and their brand of After Wash.

Apply as directed, using gloves and eye protection. I found there is no need to cover the wood with plastic and let soak, a labor-intensive process that didn't help much. Let the paint bubble up and use a little imagination to match the scraping tool to the wood contours. I used soft 1" brass brushes for nooks and crannies, razors (used carefully) on flat surfaces, and an old spoon shaped to match the contours of some moldings. Metal hardware can soak in a container for longer periods. You'll need at least 2 applications of stripper, one of wood wash (I used an old tee shirt to apply) and a lot of patience.

*Submitted by Michael Charelian,
M C Carpentry, Annville.*



Tell Us About YOUR Old Annville Home

As those of us who love old houses know - every home has its stories, its unique features, or its equally unique problems; and most leave lots of questions in our minds that our readers may be able to answer.

Please send YOUR home stories to FOOA, or e-mail
valerie@ezonline.net .

Quittie Park Spring Clean-Up Scheduled April 18 at 9 AM

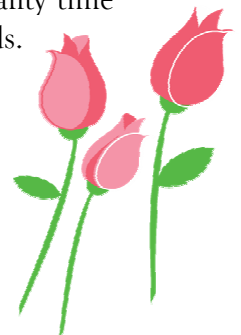
Yesterday I took a walk in the Quittie Creek Nature Park and saw a clump of purple crocus along the creek. Soon the swamp marigold will show its yellow head and the bloodroot will be peeking through the oak leaves on top of blood root hill. Some of the earliest green will come from the spicebushes near the tiny blood root plants. All of this new growth means that it's time for spring clean-up and clean-out.

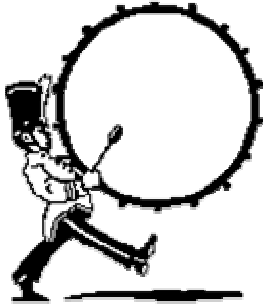
We are scheduling the spring clean-up on the morning of Saturday, April 18, from 9 AM to noon. The United Way from Lebanon County will be coming to work with the Quittie Park Committee members, the Palmyra High School honor students with their adviser Jen Hilbert, and with many of you who come out to help get the

park ready for summer activities. Annville Township will grind and deliver piles of wood mulch to the park. We will be mulching the trails and pulling out the invasive (and pervasive) garlic mustard, as we have done in previous years.

Everyone is invited to help with this event at which we all have such a good time working and talking together. Please reserve the date and then come out for some fresh air and quality time with your neighbors and friends. For details, call 867-4837.

Ann Lasky, Quittie Creek
Park Committee





Historic Old Annville Day 20th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 13, 2009
9 AM to 2 PM

Please join us for our 20th anniversary celebration of Historic Old Annville Day.

- We will try this year to increase the number and type of vendors, and we plan to expand the locations of the vendor stands to include the first block of East Main Street.
- Former Annville resident and well-known artist Bruce Johnson will be displaying his latest work at the Allen Theater complex
- Music by the Washington Band, Quittapahilla Highlanders, and other groups will run throughout the day
- Bring the family downtown for breakfast and lunch from our diverse and interesting collection of food stands.
- Old Annville Day is our opportunity to celebrate historic Annville and to attract many hundreds of residents and visitors into beautiful downtown Annville – we'll see you there.

YOU'RE INVITED !

FOOA is lining up quality vendors to join us along Main Street on Historic Old Annville Day - but there's still room for more. HOAD is on the move!

We're still seeking artisans and crafters, as well as food vendors and nonprofit organizations.

Please plan to join us on this 20th anniversary and take advantage of an excellent opportunity to showcase your talent, your cuisine, or your mission.

For details on reserving your space by May 1st, please contact Committee Chair, Jill Palanzo at 717-867-2476 or via e-mail at djpalanzo@comcast.net.



The Friends of Old Annville Train Station is open to visitors Tuesday, 7-9 PM, and Saturdays, 9 AM-12 noon, or upon request.

The Station is also available for parties and meetings. Please write Friends of Old Annville, P.O. Box 99, Annville 17003, or call (717) 867-0770 for information.

Annville Pedestrian Bridge Wins Second Major Award

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania recognized the new Raymond J. Swingholm Bridge in the Quittie Creek Nature Park with the 2009 Diamond Award. The award, presented at the Hershey Hotel on February 5, recognizes outstanding engineering contributions that enhance the social and economic welfare of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



The bridge project was nominated for the Diamond Award by Urban Engineers, Inc., who provided construction management and inspection services for the bridge project. The bridge project, carried out by the Quittie Creek Nature Park Committee of the Friends of Old Annville, was completed in November 2007.

The new pedestrian bridge, the centerpiece of the Quittie Creek Nature Park, now connects Annville and South Annville Townships along Bachman Road at the site of a former automobile bridge that was destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Agnes in 1972. Earlier, in May 2008, the Swingholm Bridge won a Construction Management Association of America Project Recognition Award.

Kathy Moe of Annville, representing the Quittie Creek Nature Park Committee, is pictured at the Diamond Awards Banquet at the Hershey Hotel with Chester L. Allen, PE, President of the ACEC/PA; Aaron Barnes PE, Construction Engineer, Urban Engineers (far left); and Joseph P. McAtee, PE, Executive Vice President, Urban Engineers (far right).

A Description of Annville in the 1930's from a Physician's Point of View

Written by Dr. James R. Monteith.

Wes Monteith, grandson of Dr. James Monteith, provided Friends of Old Annville with a copy of his grandfather's handwritten, untitled essay in which he describes and analyzes Annville in the 1930's. Dr. Monteith, who lived and practiced medicine at 301 East Main Street (currently the Patriot House), spent a good deal of time in his essay writing about aspects of life in Annville that were related to public health (water quality, pollution, hygiene, and prevalent diseases). He also wrote extensively about its schools. We will publish transcribed excerpts from Dr. Monteith's writings in this and future issues of the Landmark.

We begin in this issue with Dr. Monteith's brief history of Annville, followed by a description of Annville's water supply and sewage treatment methods. We will get a glimpse of life in Annville 75 years ago and in some important ways see how far we've come in the areas of clean water and public health. The historical information provided by Dr. Monteith is provided to the best of his knowledge, and may not be accurate in all cases.

See Page 5

Dr. Monteith writes:

History of Annville. Annville was laid out in 1762 by Abraham Miller, an early settler who named the town for his wife Ann. Early records spell the name of the town as Anvil or Anvill. For many years, however, it was popularly called for its founder, Millerstown. Annville Township was formed by a division of Lebanon Township in 1799 and was later divided into North and South Annville Townships in 1845. The town of Annville is located on the Wm. Penn Highway and on the Reading Railroad, 21 miles east of Harrisburg and 5 miles west of Lebanon. It is the cultural and educational center of the Lebanon Valley, being the seat of Lebanon Valley College, an institution which grew out of the old Annville Academy, which was founded in 1834. The industries of the town include the manufacture of shoes, hosiery, handkerchiefs and silk and also the quarrying of limestone. Its population, taken at the last census in 1933, amounts to 2997. Most of the inhabitants are of German or Pennsylvania German descent altho' the town does include a small number of Italians, most of which are quarry or factory workers.

Annville lies in the rich farm land of the Lebanon Valley and is surrounded by fairly small but prosperous farms. The rich limestone land has always been cultivated extensively by the thrifty Pennsylvania German inhabitants. Limestone is exceedingly rich in this region, at places being two miles wide. In recent years, many of the farms have been turned entirely or in part into quarries. The land is well watered by the Quittapahilla, a creek which flows through Annville, and by many other small streams. These streams furnish power for many mills. The climate of the region is mild and is very favorable to farming for there is little danger of drought and the Blue Mountains on either side of this valley protect it to a great extent during the winter from excessive cold and high winds.

The Board of Health. There is no real Board of Health in Annville, but in its place are 5 Commissioners of Public Health which really act as such a board in that they appoint a Health Officer who acts under the direction of the two physicians who report to him quarantine cases. He is in charge of putting up and taking down the signs and also of fumigations. He reports to the State Dep't of Health the no. of contagious diseases and also reports to the Commissioners any conditions which need attention for local health, source of infection, etc.

Water. The water for the town is supplied by the Annville Water Company whose plant is located to the southeast of Annville about a quarter of a mile from town. There are no public wells in town, and no private ones within the limits of the town altho' many people have cisterns for use in washing, etc.

These public and private wells were banned because of the danger of their being polluted by sewage and are now used as waste holes.

There is a high range of hills to the north of the town which is used as a watershed by the water company. This company has bought many farms along these hills and put in 10,000 spruce, pines, walnut, and oak trees in addition to the other trees which were fairly thick. They have built three reservoirs. One 140' x 60', one 80' by 40', and one L-shaped reservoir - 120' x 100'. The two former reservoirs hold from 250,000 to 300,000 gallons of water while the latter holds about 500,000 gallons. The water for these reservoirs comes from many springs in the hills and also some taken from the Quittapahilla Creek.

There has been very little trouble with the water being polluted, the chief cause for complaint being the extreme hardness of the water. This comes from the natural lime which is in it from the limestone soil and also from the large amount of chlorine which is placed in it for purification. The source of pollution is closely watched for there is some danger that the water will dam back and gather filth from the farming and grazing land nearby. In very rainy weather an extra amount of chlorine is placed in the water for protection.

The chlorinating plant is located southwest of town and all the water is chlorinated at this plant. The liquid chlorine is brought to the plant in huge tanks which are set up above the pipes which the water is carried to the plant. This plant allows the chlorine to continually run out into the water. Usually there is a

flow of 10-15 drops a minute. Much of the water is pumped directly from the plant to the water main and is never sent to the reservoir. This water often tastes very strong of chlorine and is at times extremely impalatable. A valve on the main is able to change the pressure in different parts of town. The south side of town gets its water from the largest L shaped reservoir. There is usually 20 lbs pressure. If pressure becomes too low the valve is used to let in the water from the two smaller reservoirs which ordinarily supply the north side of town, and thus this water is added to increase the pressure for the south side if necessary.

The water is tested every month or six weeks by the state inspectors who come at any time. Sometimes they tap all the springs and test them - at other times they test only the water in the main or in the reservoirs.

Sewage. The sewage disposal in Annville is very simple. Each home has its own cesspool in the back yard and some double houses have double pools. Because of the limestone region this, altho' crude, serves the purpose very well especially since wells of drinking water have been banned in town.

There are three or four septic tanks in town with the final outlet in the crevices of the limestone but the simple cesspool which is drilled thru the rock until a crevice is struck works very well.

Considering everything I would say the system is efficient as far as Annville itself is concerned. It is supposed, tho' it never has been proven that three fourths of Annville is built over a subterranean lake. There are sinkholes in the midst of town which seem to bear out this theory.

About fifteen years ago workmen who were repairing a crumbled wall in the college cesspool in the center of town, found a fissure in the limestone at the side of the pool, leading deep into the ground. Investigating, they found a swiftly moving current of water which, when sounded for depth proved so deep that, with the equipment they had, no bottom was touched. Later this stream was investigated on several different occasions and each time it was proven to be larger than it was previously supposed. It is now generally accepted that the town is built, at least in great part over this lake, and the sewage system is arranged accordingly. It is an unheard of thing in town for a family to dig a new cesspool or to have one become full. All the sewage drains thru crevices in the limestone into the ground to the lake below.

If wells were allowed I should criticize this system severely, however there are none. There is never any talk about sewage disposal and, as it is certain this waste does not drain into the creek near town and so is not used for drinking, I would not condemn it.

To be continued

RENEWALS

Michael & Barbara Arnold
 Harvey J. Bomberger
 Mr. James Bowers
 Mrs. Jeanne Dabich
 Ed & Mary Duffy
 Paul & Betty Dunkelberger
 Dana & Carol Ellenberger
 Paul & Becky Fullmer •
 Mrs. Doris Gerber
 Mrs. Annabelle Henning
 M/M Richard W. Hollinger

John & Carol Kearney
 Bob & Laura Kindt, Jr.
 M/M Conrad "Mike" Liles
 Jon & Jo Ellen Litz
 M/M Brian Mitchell
 M/M Albert Moser, Sr.
 Heidi L. Neiswender
 Marcus & Kolleen Newman
 Doug & Bonita Royer
 Dan & Donna Salerno

Mrs. William Van Kleunen
 John H. Willey
 Eleanor Witmeyer

NEW MEMBERS

Karyn Rose
 Evelyn Ward
 Suzann Yingst

• Denotes Friend of FOOA

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE can be found on the mailing label of this issue of *The Landmark*. Please send your dues and address change to Rachel Noll, 1673 Louser Road, Annville, PA 17003-8856; questions call 867-2137. (Make checks payable to Friends of Old Annville).

Individual & Student \$ 5.00
Family (2+ persons) \$10.00

Business \$25.00
Friend of FOOA \$50.00

Annville Note Cards



There's still time to order notecards featuring some of Annville's lovely old homes.



Each set (\$8.00) contains 10 note cards with envelopes (2 of each site).

Special orders will be honored at \$1/card.



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

() copies of Set A at \$8.00 each = \$ _____ () copies of Set B at \$8.00 each = \$ _____

Total amount due = _\$ _____

If you cannot pick up the cards add \$2.00 for shipping and handling.

Send your order form and payment (made payable to FOOA) to : FOOA, c/o Jill Palanzo, 515 East Main Street, Annville, PA 17003.



CALENDAR

FOOA's Program Committee is hard at work on what we believe will be an exciting mix of events and programs. Watch www.fooa.org and your Landmark for details. In the meantime, mark your calendar for:

June 1st: Deadline for Façade Grant Applications

June 13th: Historic Old Annville Day

Also, the **Annville Free Library** - as always, offers extensive opportunities for children and their parents. Be sure to contact the Library at 867-1802 for details on: Smart Start Infant & Caregiver Story Time , Pre-School Storytime, Youth Room

For adults, there's **Take-a-Break Tuesday (last Tuesday of each month at 6:30)**

Mar 31Part I: eBay Buying (Lori Musser, certified eBay Instructor)

April 28Part II: eBay Selling (Lori Musser)

*\$10 Registration Fee for eBay Classes

- ❑ Yoga Classes: Call Denise Smith @ 867-4517 for information
- ❑ Tai Chi Classes: Call Laura Reazer @ 272-3148 for information

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WATCH FOR NEW EVENTS & PROGRAMS COMING SOON!!!

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