

# THE LANDMARK

Volume XXXI, No. 2

March/April, 2011

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

*President's Message from Owen Moe*

## **The ~~Shertzer~~ Marshall House – A Lesson in History**

For over 40 years now, various people and organizations have developed walking tours of Annville, providing maps and descriptions of key buildings in town to lead visitors and residents alike through the streets of Annville to learn about our town's history. FOOA has published two such walking tours in the past five years. Most of the recent Annville tours stem from a paper by Anna Kreider that was published for the Annville Home Study in 1962 and was entitled "Annville Landmarks." Much of Kreider's work, in turn, was drawn from a monograph by Rev. P.J. Croll, "Ancient and Historic Landmarks in the Lebanon Valley," published in 1895.

When I need to look up information about a building in Annville, I usually go right to one of our walking tour sources. I have also used accounts like Croll's to provide information in my president's messages. However, when I used this approach in my last Landmark article entitled "The Shertzer Home," things went embarrassingly wrong. I was trying to provide historical detail on the fire-damaged flower shop at 125 West Main, a prom-

inent Annville building that is now undergoing restoration. I quickly learned after publication that 125 West Main was, in fact, not the John Shertzer home - it was built instead by a physician, Dr. Marshall. As far as I can tell, all of our walking tours were wrong on this point, the Anna Kreider

and P.J Croll histories were wrong, and I was wrong (even though my wife Kathy reminded me to check my sources).

Who discovered this century-long error? It was Doris Flory who has carried out her own personal research on many of the Annville buildings and families. Doris went back to original sources, including the recorded census data from 1820 onward and available tax and deed records, to show that John Shertzer's home was actually located at 13 West Main (see Doris Flory's drawing below, showing a rendition of the north side of the first block of West Main Street in the mid-1800's, with the Annville National Bank being the second building in from the corner, and the Shertzer home the fourth). The Shertzer home was demolished over 30 years ago to build the drive-up lanes and extra parking for the bank. Furthermore, another short history by Elijah B. Bierman in 1899, "A Visit to Annville Sixty Years Ago," agrees with Doris Flory's research in the placement of the Shertzer home. Quoting from Bierman,

"But now let us cross the street from Henning's Hotel (*Note: the hotel was located on SW corner of Main and South White Oak*) and call upon Mr. John Schertzer, born April 1, 1799, died September 30, 1854, who.....is doing business under the firm name of John Schertzer and Brother. The house is now occupied by the firm of Shenk & Kinports."



## President's Message Cont'd:

Again quoting from Bierman,

“A few doors farther west on the northeast corner of Main Street and Letitia alley we find Dr. John G. Marshall's comfortable home and office, and as we enter we are courteously received by the genial doctor and tendered a seat.”

Letitia Alley is now called Concord Street and the location described as the Marshall home is the 125 West Main flower shop building that now sits on the northeast corner of Main and Concord. Mystery solved and error corrected!

So, what have I learned from this foray into Annville's history? First, errors probably exist in most written histories, especially perhaps in local histories, so we must be careful. Second, those errors get faithfully propagated over the decades until they become the accepted truth. Third, only a return to original sources can eventually correct such misinformation. And fourth, in the future I plan to listen a bit more carefully to my wife. ■

### **Spring Program, Friends of Old Annville**

#### **INTRODUCING THE NEW ELECTRONIC ARCHIVE OF ANNVILLE HISTORY**

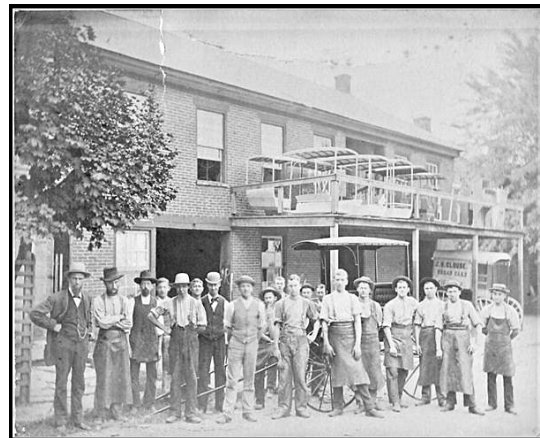
Come learn about the interesting history of your town . . . and your house!

**Thursday, April 21 at 7 PM**

**Chapel, Lebanon Valley Home, 550 E. Main Street in Annville**

Thanks to the hard work of a few dedicated local historians, information regarding the history of almost every property in historic Annville has been gathered over the past year into an electronic archive of the township. Paul Fullmer, creator of the new archive and vice president of Friends of Old Annville, will take us on a tour of this new electronic repository of Annville history. At present, the archive consists of more than 5,000 electronic files constituting over 15 gigabytes of information.

Using computer projection, Fullmer will highlight images, information, and even stories about several representative properties in Annville. One image from the archive, that of the Saylor Carriage Shop on South White Oak Street, is shown at the left. Fullmer will then open up the meeting to requests from attendees to inquire about addresses of interest to them. In some cases, information may be sent to participants as an e-mail attachment. There will also be an opportunity for individuals to contribute information to the archive.



A significant portion of the information comes from long-term Annville resident Doris Flory, who has spent many years researching Annville properties and families. Annville resident Betty Streicher has shared over one thousand images from a collection of pictures and postcards begun by her husband, the late Dick Streicher, in the 1960s. All images have been scanned and organized by address. Pictures from Ammon Balaster, Scott Saylor, Linnea Miller, Robert Long and several other local families, as well as reports to the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission and pictures and documents previously donated to the FOOA archives, also contribute to a substantial archive.

There is no admission fee. All are welcome. For more information, contact Paul Fullmer at 867-4640.

## ANNVILLE HISTORIES NOW AVAILABLE ON FOOA WEB SITE

We have recently added links to three Annville histories to first paragraph of the main page of [www.fooa.org](http://www.fooa.org). You can now read a recent history based on the 1979 nomination document to the National Park Service for Annville's inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We also added older histories written by P. J. Croll in 1895 and by E. B. Bierman in 1899, both of whom were mentioned in the president's message on the first page of this issue of the Landmark. All of these histories are interesting and informative. Sit back, open up your laptop, and enjoy.



HISTORIC OLD  
**ANNVILLE**  
DAY

**Sat. June 11th 8:30-2 pm**  
**Downtown Annville on Rt. 422**

Enjoy Crafts, Food, Music and Family Fun.  
Come Help Us Celebrate Annville!

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Hosted by Friends of Old Annville. Visit [www.fooa.org](http://www.fooa.org) for more information.

## THIS OLD ANNVILLE HOUSE – OLD WOOD LATH & PLASTER REPAIR

Old houses have old plaster. Old plaster can have lots of lovely cracks - what's a historic homeowner to do? Knock it down, live with the dust and mess, pay for a dumpster, invest in lots of drywall, you know the drill. Or...try Trade Secret Number 12, passed on to me by one of the best plasterers in the business, rest his soul.

I just recently mustered up the fortitude to tackle the original walls of my decaying front guest room. The 100 year-old plaster on all four walls was poked with holes and cracks and was loose to the touch, ready to fall if you sneezed hard. I had been thinking about the remedy my good friend had taught me years ago, and was anxious to try it on my own house.

So I took my 18-gauge finish gun and some 1 3/8" nails and proceeded to nail the plaster back to the lath. Air pressure is crucial, so the nails just inset into the plaster. I then gouged out around the cracked areas, exposing the lath, cleaned them up, and then used adhesive caulking to partially fill in, gluing the plaster back to lath. I let it dry thoroughly, then taped and coated the cracks. This procedure is great for walls; we'll go into ceiling strategies in the next installment.

*Submitted by Michael Charelian, Charelian Remodels & Renovation, Annville*

## Quittie Creek Nature Park Expansion Project

The Annville community has recently been offered a unique and compelling opportunity: two tracts of land that are contiguous with the Quittie Creek Nature Park, consisting of 12.1 acres and including three-quarters of a mile of additional wooded streamside trail, are up for sale. This situation represents a one-time-only

opportunity to expand the Quittie Creek Nature Park, more than doubling the length of hiking path that runs along the Quittapahilla Creek, and adding additional valuable woodland. The locations of the tracts of land, for sale by Kyle and Joan Smith, are shown on the map to the left as tract A (4.3 acres) and tract B (7.8 acres).



The Quittie Creek Park Committee is now working on a fund raising plan to try to expand the Quittie Park through the purchase of both tracts. The park committee recently completed a land appraisal

by a state-certified appraiser will soon announce a community-based fund raising campaign of \$75,000 to purchase the two tracts of land. The committee is also looking into submitting a DCNR grant to cover up to one-half of the appraised purchase price.

This is an exciting project with the potential to greatly expand the lovely Quittie Park natural area. The park committee is looking for individuals or companies who can provide leadership gifts in the upcoming fund raising campaign. If you have an interest in supporting this project, please call Mike Schroeder at 734-904-1690 for more information.



**The Friends of Old Annville Train Station is open to visitors Tuesday, 7-9 PM, 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.**

### **Assuring a Strong Future for Friends of Old Annville:**

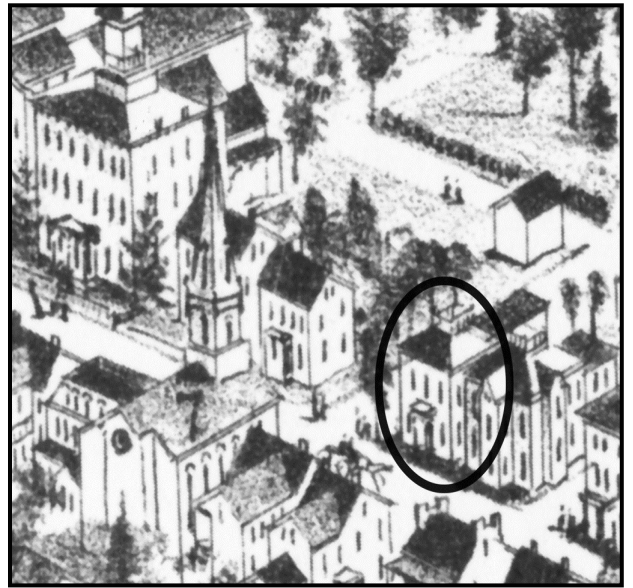
Won't you please think of FOOA when you prepare or update your Will. Your legacy perpetuates your values, and it will serve to assure that the Friends of Old Annville will be there as a strong influence for preservation in years ahead. Your kindness will be greatly appreciated and serve to maintain our Old Annville heritage into the future.

## **POSITION STATEMENT, Friends of Old Annville Board Of Directors**

Given the current controversy associated with the intent of Lebanon Valley College to raze the 1860 home at 201 East Main Street to build a new college entrance that would include a “pocket” park and a new parking area behind the park, the FOOA Board wants to state clearly its position on this issue. The following statement was approved by the Board of Directors of the Friends of Old Annville.

*Friends of Old Annville supports the College’s desire for a south entrance along Main Street – we think it important for the College and the Town to have that corner beautified and for the College to have a clearly marked entrance leading directly to the admissions building. We favor, however, a compromise solution that incorporates the restored home at 201 East Main Street as part of the entrance.*

*The structure in question has both historical and architectural significance, and in its original form was a striking Italianate building (see 1888 map drawing to the right) with a low pitched roof and bracketed eaves as well as a unique widow’s walk. The first owner of the building was the daughter of Adam Ulrich, influential town leader and founder of the Annville Academy that later became Lebanon Valley College. If restored, the home would contribute substantially to Annville’s historic streetscape.*



*Therefore we stand opposed to the demolition of the building. We ask the College to restore this 150 year old Annville home and incorporate it into the design of the new college entrance. Such an entrance based on a preserved historical structure will restore architectural and historical significance to the northwest corner of Main Street and College Avenue and will also enhance Lebanon Valley College.*

**The Annville Township Commissioners will consider the College’s request for demolition again at its next regular meeting on Monday, April 4, at 7:30 PM at the Annville Township Hall.**

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- ❑ Annville Commissioners Meeting (Decision on 201 E. Main) .....Monday, April 4th
- ❑ Quittie Park Spring Cleanup ..... Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>
- ❑ Spring Program: New Electronic Archives .....Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>
- ❑ Historic Old Annville Day .....Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>
- ❑ Application Deadline: Façade Grant Round 3 .....Thursday, June 30th

In the meantime, if you have an idea for a program, or if you’d like to host a program at your old Annville home, please be sure to let us know.

## Membership Renewal

Please remember that your 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. Have questions? Call: (717) 867-2137.

Individual & Student \$ 5.00	Family (2+ persons) \$ 10.00
Business \$ 25.00	Friend of FOOA \$ 50.00
Benefactor ..... \$100.00	

### RENEWALS

Michael & Barbara Arnold  
 Fannie I. Berman  
 Ed & Palm Bernardo  
 Mrs. Joan Bernardo  
 Dr. Norman V. Blantz •  
 M/M Edward Eisenhauer  
 Dana & Carole Ellenberger  
 M/M Ronald Flory  
 Dr/M Arthur Ford  
 Paul & Becky Fullmer •  
 M/M Walter Haber  
 Mrs. Annabelle Henning

M/M James Hoffsmith  
 M/M Richard W. Hollinger  
 Dr. Frederick Johnson  
 Mrs. Lucille V. Kauffman  
 Scott & Karen Mailen  
 M/M Carl O. Miller  
 M/M Brian Mitchell  
 M/M Owen Moe §§  
 Marcus & Kolleen Newman  
 Dr/M John D. Norton III  
 Phil & Maryann Palanzo  
 Gwendolyn Pierce

Bonnie Bernardo Rieker  
 Doug & Bonita Royer  
 Lydia A. Schiavoni  
 Tricia Thomas/Michael  
 Schroeder •  
 Joe & Anne Shemeta  
 M/M John D. Shuey  
 Mrs. Grace Tom  
 Mark W. & Beth (Biely)  
 Wethington  
 Bob & Doris Yorty

### NEW MEMBERS

Susan Duskin  
 Nevin & Eileen Hoover  
 Jeff & Marie Kreamer

John & Mary Kreider  
 Anthony & Alissa Perrotto

★ Denotes Friend of FOOA

§§ Denotes Benefactor of FOOA



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