

THE LANDMARK

Volume XXXII No. I

January/February, 2012

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

Historic Preservation as a Driver of Economic Development **President's Message by Owen Moe**

A fascinating article in the Jan-Feb 2012 issue of *Preservation* magazine tells the story of Staunton, Virginia (see pictures below), a town somewhat larger than Annville but with many similarities. The story, which I will retell and summarize below, is one of threat and injury, courage and vision, and ultimately one of satisfying success. I think that you will see several parallels with Annville as you read the story of Staunton. Quotations below are used to identify exact text from the article itself.

“The automobile practically killed Staunton’s architectural history.” In the 1960’s the city tore down 32 historic buildings and paved over the empty lots to create parking for the downtown area. “In 1971, the city approved the Virginia Department of Transportation’s plan to knock down the historic train station, the 1854 American Hotel, and a row of 19th-century warehouses known collectively as the Wharf, to accommodate a massive four-lane thoroughfare.”



Residents concerned about the loss of these key structures met together around kitchen tables to organize the Historic Staunton Foundation (HSF), a non-profit that advocated historic preservation. Looking back, one of the organizers observed: “If everybody had gotten enough parking to suit them – the banks, churches, city hall, and so forth – there wouldn’t be too much left in between to remind us of what Staunton used to be.” HSF opposed the road project and won. In 1977 HSF hired an architectural historian as the first executive director of the foundation. The new director emphasized education, and the group immediately

began nominating Staunton buildings to the National Register of Historic Places. HSF created a traveling tabletop model of the town, highlighting the town’s remaining historic treasures and using a cycling audio tape of Joni Mitchell’s voice – “They paved paradise and put up a parking lot” – as background music.



HSF eventually realized that success in preservation needed to be tied to economic development to provide a self-sustaining town center. HSF developed its own façade improvement program and offered free design consulting services to business owners who agreed to preserve and restore their historic storefronts. “City government leaders proved their commitment in

the late 1980’s, for the first time tying Staunton’s economic development plan to historic preservation.

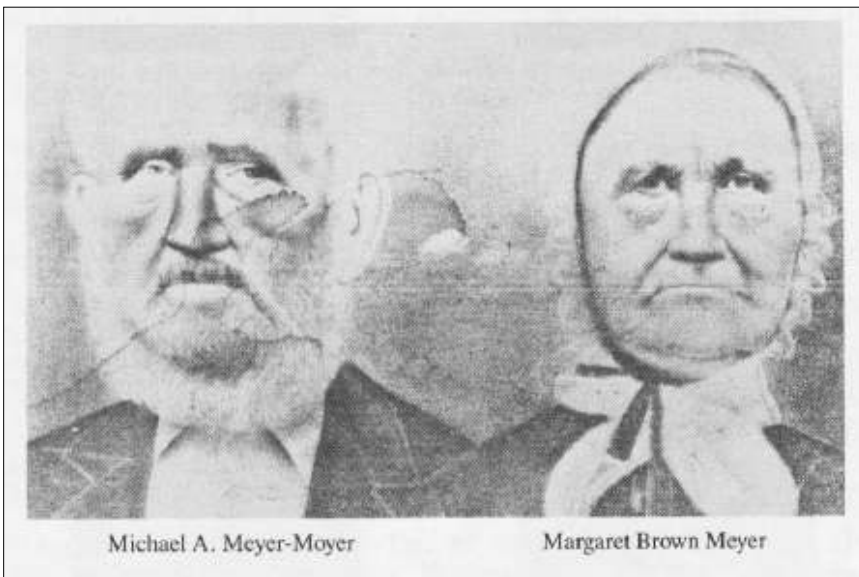
President's Message (Cont'd):

In 1996, the council passed a historic preservation ordinance to prevent inappropriate renovations..." And instead of tearing down historic buildings, the city now carries out streetscape projects, burying electrical wires, installing brick sidewalks, and putting in street lamps – does much of this sound familiar?

"Historic preservation is such an important part of who we are in Staunton that you can't separate it from the city's economic growth, says Economic Development Director Bill Hamilton..." The old Wharf brick warehouses are now filled with shops, and the economy of the town center is thriving. "Contrary to the opinions of early naysayers, preservation has been an economic driver for Staunton. The charming architecture, walkability, and lively cultural scene draw more and more people to town..." An NYC screenwriter, who had been looking at East coast towns for a location to open a movie theater, chose Staunton: "I popped out at the train station into this amazingly preserved Victorian town. It just blew me away. So many towns were run down, and all businesses had moved to the outskirts. Downtown Staunton had this real energy, which is especially striking for such a small place." His restored theater now draws 3000 people per month for evening movies. Lest we think that everything is roses, Staunton like Annville and other places still has to meet the formidable challenges of our current recession economy. Nonetheless, a local pathologist who recently moved to Staunton sums it up best: "I like that Staunton feels like a real town, not just a suburb of some place."

Part II. OUR PRICELESS HERITAGE, Della Herr Thomas

Continued from the last issue of the Landmark, this brief history of the Meyer family in the Annville area was written by Della Herr Thomas in 1986 for the twenty-eighth annual reunion of the Meyer family, and was published in a booklet written for that reunion. In the last issue, as we left the Meyer Family, they had suffered the loss of their oldest son, Henry, and father, John L. Meyer in 1865.



The Meyer families on the old homestead became successful farmers and specialized in the dairy, milling, and ice businesses. Their products were sold in Annville and surrounding areas. Fruit from their orchards were of the best quality in Pennsylvania.

In 1857 the Lebanon Valley Railroad was formed and tracks were constructed through the southern fields of the Meyer farm. It became the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad the next year.

At the turn of the twentieth century electricity, a new source of energy, was being used everywhere. Trolley service owned by the Lebanon Valley Traction Co. extended from Myerstown on the east to Palmyra on the west end. Transfers could be made beyond those towns.

The tracks constructed over the Berks-Dauphin Turnpike ran through the Annville area which was divided into North Annville and South Annville Tow-ships. School children living on the north side of Main Street attended the building on North King and Church Streets for grades one through high school. Those south of

the trolley tracks started in the Manheim Street building, now the reconstructed Annville American Legion Building, and continued through high school in a building on Queen Street, replaced by Viozzi's Food Market.

In 1908 Annville Township was formed out of the two townships with the railroad tracks as the northern boundary and the Quittapahilla Creek, the south and west boundaries. Many craftsmen and business people combined their skills to make Annville a flourishing community.

The schools were united. First Grade was held in the Manheim St. building; Second and Third Grades, on the first floor in the Queen St. building with four years of high school on the second floor; and Fourth to Eighth Grades were assigned to the N. King St. school. Shortly afterward, with the rapid growth of the community, all four high school classes occupied the entire Queen Street Building, known as the Washington School until 1928, when a new high school was built.

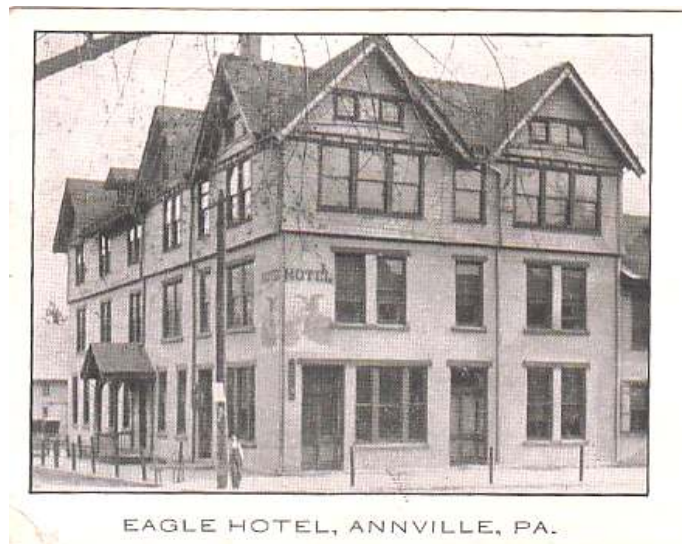
My school days began the year of the jointure with graduation in 1919, then on through Lebanon Valley College in Annville to June 1923. All these years Annville was an industrious, country town, practically self sustaining.

The center of town is where White Oak Street, going north and south crosses Main Street. Looking at the picture of Main Street on the left side the Eagle Hotel is on the southwest corner. On election days voting took place in the basement of the hotel which had an outside stairway. There was a livery stable at the rear. On the corner of the property was one of the town's wells which supplied drinking water to the area people.

West of the hotel in the same block was a barber shop, bakery, butcher shop, a tailor shop and a few homes, to Lancaster Street. Beyond them was a restaurant, saddle shop, the United Brethren parsonage and church. In the next block was a dentist's office, a doctor's office, furniture store combined with the undertaking business, and a general merchandise store.

Starting again at the corner of Main and White Oak Streets going west on the north side, was the U.S. Post Office, Annville National bank, a general merchandise store, a doctor's office, a grocery store and novelty store in one building, then a livery service and a millinery store. Across the intersection at Lancaster Street was the Peoples Trust Co., a general merchandise store, barber shop, jewelry store, hardware store, hotel, bakery, butcher shop, and another hotel.

On another picture of Main Street at the square looking east on the south side, there was a drug store, hardware store, barber shop, restaurant, jewelry store, doctor's office and further east, the Lutheran Church. On the northeast corner of the square was a fresh produce and fish market, next on the east, a tobacco store, the Justice of the Peace's Office in a small building, a bakery and a paint store at the corner of Manheim Street. On other streets of the town were two large coach shops, a large shoe factory, hosiery mill, handkerchief factory, and a bologna factory. There was also a flower shop, marble works, and a printing shop. The Annville Journal was printed weekly. A number of grocery stores were built in residential sections of the town.



Every home had a garden large enough to have some fruit trees and to grow a variety of vegetables. Farmers drove to town with their spring wagons laden with fruit and vegetables selling their extra produce. Housewives canned or dried enough to last until the next year's supply.

Daily door to door deliveries were made by the milkman, baker, butcher, and in summer, the iceman. There was little need to go out of town to shop for the daily necessities.

Sundays were observed as a day for worship and rest. Business places were closed. There were eight churches in town which were well attended. Six of them had a steeple or tower with a bell, run by hand before services or to herald a special event. At the end of World War II when the United States signed the Armistice with Germany on Nov. 11, 1918 at 11:00 AM, all the bells were rung wildly, along with the blowing of the factory whistles. The citizens gathered on Lebanon Valley College Campus to hear a talk by our Congressman A.S. Kreider, before parading through the town. On the campus, the Men's Dormitory had become the barracks for a unit of the U.S. Army. Men had enlisted in September 1918 in the S.A.T.C. - Student Army Training Corps, to be trained as officers. The unit was dissolved in December following the end of the war.

During the first quarter of the 20th Century untold changes took place, from two owners of automobiles (Stanley Steamers) to cars owned by many of the citizens, to electric lights on the street corners, and electricity in the homes. Stoves, refrigerators, washers, sweepers, and radios were new inventions, and constant challenges.

In this present era, 60 years later, factories, stores, and restaurants have disappeared. Distant shopping centers supply all the daily needs, but transportation, not always available, is needed to go to them.

Education in the schools and colleges is of the highest standard and quality. There are service, patriotic, and literary clubs to which citizens may belong, as well as seven active churches. The people of Annville have survived the changes and adjusted well to them.

Since Annville is the focal point from which we have been able to research many generations, contacts have been made with descendants whose names have changes in some families. Meyer, Meyers, Myers and Moyer names have been traced to Rudolph Meyer, Jr. of North Annville Township, PA, and therefore to his father, Rudolph Meyer Sr. the immigrant who first bought 200 acres of land in the Lancaster, Pa area, sold it to the Hamiltons, then purchased 700 acres in the Tulpehocken area, Berks Co., Pa.

The offspring of the Annville pioneers include successful men and women in the various professions they chose. Members of our Meyer Family in America live not only in the Annville area but in 21 states of the U.S.. ■

RESTORING AN ANNVILLE TREASURE

2012 Spring Program – Sunday, April 22 at 3 PM

The spring 2012 program of Friends of Old Annville will give us a look at the renovation job being carried out by Jeff and Marie Kreamer at 533 West Queen Street in Annville.

The Kreamers, who purchased the 1795 Abraham Herr home, will talk to us about their efforts (and adventures) in restoring this 18th century limestone structure. They will also take us through sections of the home showing us examples of rooms before and after the restoration work.

Save the date – we will give you registration information in our next Landmark in early April. There will be no charge for this event.



IN MEMORIAM: ELEANOR LOUISE WITMEYER



On Saturday, December 17, several hundred members of the Annville community gathered to mourn the death of Eleanor Louise Witmeyer at age 90. Born in Annville, on September 23, 1921, she was the daughter of the late John and Carrie Houser Witmeyer. Eleanor was a 1939 graduate of Annville High School, a 1943 graduate of Lebanon Valley College, and later received a Master of Arts degree from Bucknell University. She taught one year in the East Cocalico School District and then in 1944 began her employment with the Annville Township School District. For 35 years she was a social studies teacher and served many years as an advisor to the student council.

Regarding her father's work in an Annville factory during the first half of the twentieth century, Eleanor told reporter Nancy Frye in 1983: "Many factory workers were so skilled, they really put me to shame. I learned from that, and I always tried to teach my students that not one of us could live without the labor of others."

Such practical, inspirational instruction was a hallmark of Eleanor's teaching. Many Annville residents remember her influential adage: "Everyone should vote, to help row the boat." As a result of her commitment to her students and her extensive influence, Eleanor was awarded numerous citations, including the Jaycee Teacher of the Year, an Honorary Chapter Farmers Degree, the Classroom Teacher's Medal and Citation from the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge in 1964, a Distinguished Alumni Award from LVC in 1984, the Lebanon County Outstanding Educator in 1984, and the Annville High School Alumni of the Year in 2006.

Eleanor Witmeyer was a stalwart member of Friends of Old Annville and a rich source of Annville history and we are pleased to dedicate this article—to be published in three parts—to her memory. This history of education in Annville is re-published with the permission of Kathy Gardner Wingert, who wrote it in 1982 while a student at Annville High School.

The History of Education in Annville

Written by Kathy Gardner, Annville-Cleona High School, 1982

The first settlers of Annville, as well as those of the entire Lebanon County, were German immigrants. Since at the time of their immigration Germany was the most literate country of the world, our ancestors immediately recognized the need to educate their young. As a result they placed emphasis upon the establishment of schools for that purpose.



As a whole, Lebanon County boasted of three classes of early schools: charity, individual, and community. While there were no charity schools in Annville, those existing throughout the rest of the county were managed through England or Philadelphia. Individual schools were taught by a single tutor for his own profit, usually at his residence. The final class was that of community schools. Organized and named by people of the community, they were the most common class of early schools in the county. During their early histories all three classes of schools gave instruction completely in German.

However, in 1815 English was introduced by an Annville parochial school, and gradually English became the language in which all instruction was given.

Some information about specific early schools survives. The first known community school of Annville was the parochial school established by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations which in 1804 combined to build the Old Jerusalem Church where the United Church of Christ now stands. They built their parochial school which served both the urban and rural communities on the corner of Queen and White Oak Streets. About the same time the Lutheran and Reformed congregations which worshipped at Old Hill Church established another parochial school about one quarter of a mile west of their church on land purchased by Jacob Keller. The building also served as a residence for the tutor and was used for educational purposes until 1838 when the school was abolished because of lack of patronage after the institution of the public school system. Elsewhere, there were neighborhood schools, favorites of the Germans. Families of the community alternately boarded a teacher, who in turn taught all the neighborhood children in the specific home in which he was staying.



Annville also had its share of individual schools. Before the turn of the eighteenth century, Squire Daniel Stroh reportedly conducted an individual school on the corner of Queen and Chestnut Streets. Upon his death his son and namesake, who was also Justice of the Peace, erected a new building on Cherry Street and moved the school there. However, it also was discontinued when the public school system was adopted. Still another private school was said to have been run by a Miss Stambaugh on South White Oak Street.

These schools represent only a small percentage of those which must have been operated in Annville's early history. Although specific information is unavailable, research does at least confirm the existence of several

other early individual schools. These include one located between Waterworks and Bellegrove, one farther east on the Horseshoe Pike, and two others located in the southern part of the township.

Such was the state of the early school system of Annville. Education was available to all, but it required a fee, money which many people could not afford. The state recognized the unfairness of this system which made education available only to the affluent and in 1934 passed the Free School Act which initiated the building and operation of schools at public expense.

The passage of that act was met with mixed emotion by the people of Annville Township. It was supported by many townspeople who could not afford to pay for an education for their children. A public school system was opposed by those of the rural districts who were generally more wealthy than the townspeople and who were satisfied with the present system and were not eager to exchange it for an untried system.

A township election was held to decide whether or not the public school system was to be adopted. The townspeople could have been outvoted by those who lived in the country, but a major snowstorm prohibited the attendance of many rural voters at the polls located in town. As a result, with little opposition shown to it at the polls, the public school system of Annville was established. To be continued.

5 A. Last Name		First Name and Initial															NATIONAL SCHOOL RECORD SYSTEM PUPIL'S REPORT CARD						
Rice		Margaret																					
Grade		Room										School											
Third												Lincoln											
SCHOOL YEAR	Days Absent	Number of Times Tardy	Health	Conduct	Effort	Reading and Literature		English	Spelling	Penmanship	Grammar	Arithmetic	Geography	History and Civ. Gov't		Music	Drawing	Manual Trng or Domestic Arts	Physiology and Hygiene	Nature Study and Science	Physical Training	1 or E=90% to 100% or Excellent 2 or G=75% to 89% or Good 3 or F=60% to 74% or Fair 4 or U=40% to 59% or Unsatisfactory 5 or VP= Less than 40% or Very Poor	
						R&L	E.							Sp.	Po.								Gr.
1917																							
1918																							
FIRST SEMESTER	1st Mo.	0	0	E	E	E	90	97			80											Art. J. Rice	
	2nd Mo.	0	0	E	E	E	89	97			91											A. J. Rice	
	3rd Mo.	0	0	E	E	E	90	90			88											A. J. Rice	
	4th Mo.	1/2	0	E	E	E	90	95			77												
	5th Mo.	0	0	E	E	E	90	92			81												Art. J. Rice
	Total						88	94			87					85							Art. J. Rice

"THE HOME AND THE SCHOOL SHOULD WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHILD."
 It is important that the teacher should be fully informed as to the child's physical condition, life outside of school, and previous history. Parents are cordially invited to confer with the teacher or the principal.
 Signature of Teacher
 Mary B. Landis

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WITH PHOTOS

Lori Nalley is seeking old pictures of the Heilig House on East Main Street and the bar behind the Batdorf building on North Lancaster Street.

If you can help, please contact Lori via e-mail at lnalley@centurytel.net.



Box 99, Annville, PA 17003
Address Service Requested

Non-ProfitOrg.
U.S.Postage
PAID
Lebanon,,PA
17042
Permit No. 184

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 in into the future.

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 Rachel at: (717) 867-2137 or e-mail rrnoll@comcast.net.

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

RENEWALS

M/M Larry Aungst ★
M/M Randall Aungst
M/M BernardBell
M/M Alfred P. Bernardo
Philip & Sue Billings
Dr. Norman V. Blantz ★
Ken & Betty Blauch
Harvey J. Bomberger
Adelene B. Boyer

M/M K. Kenneth Brown, II
Betty Lou Colban
Mrs. Jeanne Dabich
M/M Fred Grun
Mrs. Irene Henise ★
M/M Thomas Lehman
M/M Conrad "Mike" Liles
Ms. Helen Lupinetti
M/M Frederick Melhorn
M/M Carl O. Miller

Dr/M John D. Norton III
Dr. Jacob Rhodes
Dr/M W. Harry Schaffer
M/M James Scott
George & Elsa Struble
Mrs. John Synodinos ★
Mrs. Gloria Wentling

NEW MEMBERS

Martin A. Carrano, Jr.