

THE LANDMARK

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

Local Historic Preservation Societies & the Digital Revolution

President's Message by Michael J. Schroeder

The digital revolution offers local historic preservation societies like the Friends of Old Annville an exciting set of challenges and opportunities to extend and deepen our efforts to protect and preserve our town's rich history. Taking stock of FOOA's past and current initiatives in the realm of digital technologies shows us well positioned to become a model for other local historic preservation societies across South-Central Pennsylvania & beyond.

Previous issues of the *Landmark* have spotlighted some of the new initiatives being undertaken by FOOA as we move into this uncharted terrain of the digital revolution. Here we summarize FOOA's current Web presence and outline the digital initiatives currently underway or contemplated for the near future.

Website. Our website (www.fooa.org) offers visitors a simple but attractive design and navigation structure that makes it easy to find information about FOOA, past issues of *The Landmark*, and upcoming events. We expect to continue upgrading the website, since its inception under the capable stewardship of webmaster Owen Moe, so that it remains an easily accessible clearinghouse & repository for all things relating to FOOA.

Facebook Page. Created by Paul Fullmer at the end of last year, our Facebook page is poised for a major facelift in the coming months. Because many people increasingly turn to Facebook for news & information about their favorite community organizations, it is essential that FOOA establish and nurture a strong Facebook presence, a project now underway – so stay tuned!

Annville Electronic Archives Project. This extraordinary resource, created by Paul Fullmer and a team of dedicated volunteers and made possible by the generous contributions of many community members, serves as a repository for over 25,000 folders and files relating to Annville history. Housing photographs, newspaper stories, oral histories, and a wide range of other documents, this "cloud-based" Google-Drive digital archive, whose voluminous holdings will soon be accessible to

community members for a nominal fee of \$5 per year, represents the cutting edge of local historic preservation.

Interactive Locative Narratives (ILN) Project. Imagine walking through downtown Annville and pointing your smart-phone at a Quick Response Code (QR Code) on the streetlight pole on the northwest corner of Main & White Oak Streets. The QR Code activates a menu that lets you explore different aspects of the intersection's history through photos, videos & narratives of various kinds. Now imagine that you have stories of your own to share, that you tell your stories into your phone, and that these become part of FOOA's digital holdings on the intersection's history.

This is the basic idea behind the emergent concept of Interactive Locative Narratives. Working with faculty members in Lebanon Valley College's Digital Communications Department, FOOA's Board hopes to launch a pilot ILN project in the near future.

Short Historical Videos for YouTube, Facebook & the ILN Project. The FOOA Board is currently engaged in discussions with several Lebanon Valley College professors in the English & Digital Communications departments to enlist

the talents & skills of LVC students in the creation of a series of short videos exploring various aspects of the history of Annville. Suitable topics for such videos include the origins and a brief history of FOOA; past historic preservation initiatives like the resurrection of the Historic Annville Railroad Station, the Façade Grant Program, and exemplary historic homes; FOOA's efforts to promote Annville History via publications like *The Landmark* and Paul Fullmer & FOOA's 2011 book on the *History of Annville Township*; the story of the grassroots efforts to create the Quittie Creek Nature Park, the Raymond Swingholm Pedestrian Bridge, and the 2011-2013 Nature Park expansion project; FOOA's efforts to support downtown development initiatives; and others. Soon we hope to have half a dozen or so such videos completed and available on YouTube and the FOOA website & Facebook page.

A Piece of Old Annville: E-Registry for Salvaged Historic Building Materials. Part of preserving historic old Annville means preserving historic building materials such as doors, moldings, shutters, gingerbread trim, railings, and other items that give our town its distinctive flavor and feel. The problem is that FOOA does not have a warehouse to store such materials. Our solution is to ask local residents

to store such materials themselves and list them on the FOOA website's e-Registry for Salvaged Historic Building Materials. FOOA will then serve as a kind of middleman between residents with building materials worth preserving and people wanting to incorporate a piece of historic Old Annville into their restoration projects. This way one person's trash can literally become another person's treasure! We expect the e-Registry to be up and running soon.

Digital Networking. The Digital Revolution affords many opportunities for networking among the region's historic preservation societies & organizations, such as Cornwall Iron Furnace, the Lebanon County Historical Society, the Lebanon Valley Conservancy, and others. In the coming months & years, FOOA will continue its efforts to deepen our digital ties with other local historical societies devoted to preserving our region's rich history.

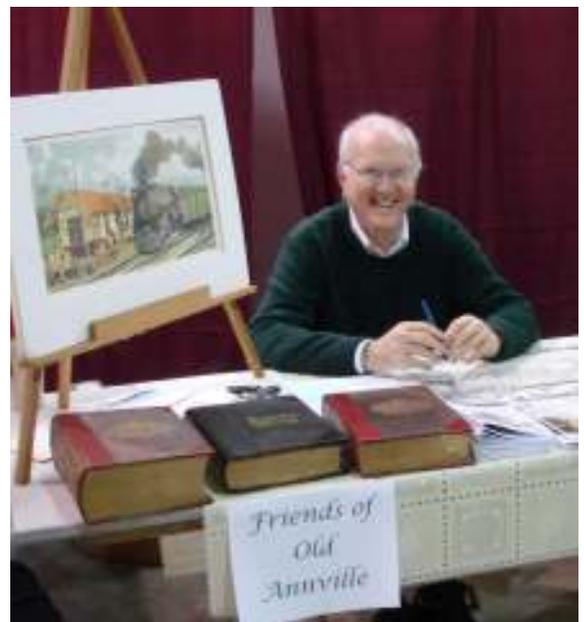
Considering all these initiatives as a whole, it is clear that in the emergent field of digital technologies, FOOA is well positioned to become a model for other local historic preservation societies across South-Central Pennsylvania & beyond.

FOOA Helps Celebrate Lebanon County's 200th Birthday

On Saturday, February 16, Friends of Old Annville was delighted to participate in Lebanon County's Bicentennial Celebration at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center and Fairgrounds in North Cornwall Township.

Hundreds of visitors stopped by the FOOA booth to ask questions, leaf through our historic books, pick up a brochure, or just chat.

Pictured at right staffing the FOOA table in his inimitably enthusiastic & friendly way is co-president Owen Moe. Also representing FOOA at the celebration were Co-President Mike Schroeder and Vice-President Paul Fullmer.



**BICENTENNIAL VISIT TO LEBANON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO
FEATURE ANNVILLE ARTIFACTS
Friends of Old Anville Spring Program**

Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m. @ 924 Cumberland Street in Lebanon

Early in the nineteenth century, approximately 1,800 pianos were manufactured in Annville by John Shertzer, who also opened the first general store in town. One of the pianos, a four-and-a-half-octave spinet made by Shertzer in Annville in 1828, has been preserved by the Lebanon County Historical Society.

Such a remarkable treasure has several Friends of Old Anville wondering what else might in the Lebanon County collection. What better time to find out than the bicentennial of the county?

The Friends will venture into Lebanon to explore county holdings as part of a special program coordinated by the board of the Friends of Old Anville and curators of the Lebanon County Historical Society. The program, to feature approximately 40 Annville artifacts preserved by the Historical Society, will be held in the Reese Memorial Hall of Stoy Museum, located at 924 Cumberland Street in Lebanon, on Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public, but space is limited. To register, e-mail Paul Fullmer at bpfullmer@gmail.com or call 717-867-4640 by Sunday, April 7.

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

**ANNVILLE'S
ELECTRONIC ARCHIVES**

Annville's Electronic Archives are now available to the general public via Google Drive for a suggested annual donation of \$5.00. Registrants will receive an e-mail communication containing a single link which will grant them access to more than 25,000 folders and files related to Annville history for one year.

The electronic files are organized by address, personal name, business, and organization, among other categories. Individuals may also contribute family history and images to the collection. The archives are updated at the beginning of every month.

Because the archives are based on Google Drive, registration requires a Google username and password (at no additional cost). Technical assistance is available.

Registration Form

Please grant me online access to *Annville's Electronic Archives* for one year.

NAME _____ PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

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CHECKS, MADE PAYABLE TO "FRIENDS OF OLD ANNVILLE," MAY BE MAILED TO 444 EAST MAIN STREET, ANNVILLE, PA 17003.



In the last issue of the Landmark, we introduced The President's House, built according to the plans of Edmund S. Lorenz, Lebanon Valley College's fourth President from 1887-1889. In his memoir below, written with wit and apparent candor, you'll learn that his physical collapse was, perhaps, the only thing that stopped him from 'making a break for it' — escaping from Annville and taking the College with him.

Chapter 19 of President Lorenz' Memoir Entitled: MY COLLEGE FIASCO

“But suddenly, early in October, 1877, like a bolt out of the blue there came a call to undertake the presidency of Lebanon Valley College at Annville, Pa. It attracted me, but I was loath to give up my literary musical plans. I also questioned my ability to endure the strain involved in such a position. Had I fully known the situation, I now think I should have refused. ... So, against my own better judgment, I agreed to undertake the task and left at once to take hold of the unknown problem. On arriving I found that my predecessor, in a rage because of some opposition to some of his plans, had resigned the day before the college was to open. He sent word to the coming and prospective students that he had resigned and that the institution would likely close its doors.”

“The school year, however, was begun, but under great uncertainties and fear of collapse. A dragnet was thrown out at once to secure a president in which I had become entangled. I had not taught since I was nineteen years old and then only in a public graded school. I knew college methods and organization only from the outside. The members of the faculty, the Executive Committee, the Trustees, the people in the field at large, were all unknown to me. Yet I had to establish the general morale in students and faculty and in the supporting territory. My chief task was to awaken courage and aggressiveness and to develop financial resources without which the school was doomed.”

“It was a daunting situation, but I summoned all my courage and plunged ahead. ...One by one, as they came up, the problems were solved. There was a growing enthusiasm and hopefulness among students and friends. Improvements and enlargements were made in every line ... So the year that opened so disastrously ended with the largest attendance and the best financial report in the history of the college.”

Dr. Lorenz then writes that due to the constant use of his voice for teaching, preaching, and lecturing, it began to break at inopportune moments and a throat specialist prescribed a steady course of the nerve tonic, strychnic, which led to his total collapse. Added to that, “no small factor in my nervous exhaustion was the illness and death of our baby, Paul Shuey, at the age of twenty-one months. Baby Paul was laid to rest “on the brow of the hill overlooking the village from the northwest”.



PLACE OF PAUL'S BURIAL.

The round monument to the left is where the body of the dear little lad sleeps. The one to the right is that of Helen Lehman.

After a month of rest which President Lorenz devoted to completing his book on revival techniques, he returned to Annville. He writes: “I had decided that the fundamental weakness of the college was its location in a backward Pennsylvania Dutch village where even the children used Pennsylvania Dutch in their play and spoke English with a pronounced German accent despite the fact that their ancestors had come to America a century and more before. I thought it ought to be moved to Harrisburg, the capital of the state. To announce my decision openly would have been suicidal, as it would have given the absolutely certain opposition a chance to anticipate me by check-mating my every move.”

“I managed to get an appointment with U.S. Senator Don Cameron on a Saturday when he was at home on a weekend. He had several thousand acres of land lying between Harrisburg and Steelton, and I was sure he

would be accessible to a proposition not only to increase its value very largely, but also greatly to hasten its being brought into a lively market, by establishing a college on part of it. I found him willing to promise me ten acres for my purpose. I warned him that I should want him to quadruple that, but was glad to have that much for a start. He also promised me to spend a week in visiting the leading financial people of Harrisburg and to organize a movement to assure that city's providing the necessary buildings. The United Brethren Church was to raise an adequate endowment fund as its share of the enterprise."

"The Harrisburg end was to be taken care of on the quiet, so that I could spring the proposition on the college trustees and the supporting conferences as an accomplished and official offer and so prevent the reactionaries and Annville interests from defeating it."

"So I left Senator Cameron full of enthusiasm and courage. The next day, a Sunday, I preached at Stoverdale Camp, a great East-Pennsylvania Conference summer center, with unusual vigor, but with some strange nervous experiences whose meaning I did not understand."

From there, President Lorenz writes that he was "on deck" at Mount Zion Camp, the summer center of the Pennsylvania conference. Preaching in a day of heavy rain, beating on an iron roof, he further strained his voice and describes "even worse tingling and gasping experiences." Accepting an excursion by passenger train to New York City, in anticipation of rest, Dr. Lorenz was ultimately overcome by the city's heat as he walked from Cooper Square to Wall Street "the street at that time of evil repute." While he made it back to Annville, an all night trip in a sleeper car, he "suffered inexpressibly" with his nerves and, following arrival, suffered heart failure. He writes: "The collapse unconsciously prepared for had at last come. Of course, with that collapse, all my great plans for the institution collapsed as well."

"I have already trespassed too greatly on the patience of the reader to continue in the minute description of the following years' struggle to get out of the deep nervous pit into which I had so calamitously fallen. I soon saw, that, unless I was removed from Annville I should never recover, for in spite of every kindly intention to spare me, the problems of the college were brought to me. For weeks I lay without moving my little finger, unless I was disturbed. I was merely vegetating. As soon as I gave the slightest hope that I could be moved, I was taken to the train to start for Dodson. I was in serious doubt whether I would reach it alive, so weak and irregular was my heart action. Even when I got to Dodson, it was uncertain whether I would reach Mama's old home alive."

"Their family doctor had been wired for from Dayton, and came at once to take charge of my case. I had suffered so much from the ignorance and consequent mistakes of my Annville doctors that I was glad during the following winter to be in the hands of a doctor who knew what he was doing. Dr. Mundhenk put me on a steady diet of digitalis and arsenic, and my diet was planned to increase my strength without irritating my stomach."

"... Little by little my strength increased until I was able to creep back, metaphorically speaking, to Annville and slightly supervise the appointment of teachers for a heavy spring attendance, and the planning for commencement." He then relates that as soon as he realized the seriousness of his condition, he offered his resignation as president. "But sympathy and appreciation of what I had accomplished, and, perhaps, a realization that a nearly dead president was better than no president at all, led the Executive Committee to refuse its acceptance." But with the strain of commencement, Dr. Lorenz recognized his inability to return to work and resigned, "this time peremptorily".

With the appointment of his successor, President Lorenz concludes his Annville chapter with the note that he "limped back to the East, a broken man."



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HISTORIC OLD ANNVILLE DAY

Saturday, June 8th from 9 to 2

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, Anville, PA, 17003-8856. Have questions? Call Rachel at: (717) 867-2137.

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

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