

THE LANDMARK

Volume XXX, No. 6

November/December, 2010

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

A VISION FOR LEBANON COUNTY

President's Message from Owen Moe



Kip Kelly and the Lebanon County Conservancy have a vision for Lebanon County, a vision that builds on one resource in which our county is particularly rich ~ historic sites, buildings, and towns. Kelly, as the featured speaker at the FOOA Annual Dinner meeting on November 12 advanced the case that our county and the individual locations within the county could, with planning, work, and commitment, attract many more visitors, the so-called “heritage tourists”, who are looking for quaint interesting towns to visit for a day, week-end or even longer.

As a first step in highlighting Lebanon County history, the Conservancy has published a brochure “**Heritage Trail**”, an automobile (or biking) tour through the county’s historic town centers and key historic sites (image of brochure to left).

Lebanon County itself has also elaborated a vision in its Comprehensive Plan (2007) that incorporates an important role for historic resources. The county’s **Historic Resources Plan**, supported by a separate **Historic Resources Profile** (you can google these documents), sets the following goals:

- Identify districts and landmarks that embody important elements of county culture, history, or architectural history.
- Protect such districts and landmarks from unnecessary destruction and degradation and promote appropriate use and re-use of historic properties.
- Encourage new development to fit into local architectural patterns for buildings, site design, and public space.

The Lebanon County plan states: “historic resources preservation is most successful when it is integrated into the other aspects of planning preservation of open space, scenic roadways, and the provision of trails and bikeways. By incorporating historic resources into these other planning components, awareness of the number, type, and significance of the resources is raised within the county.”

Annville was given special recognition by Kip Kelly and by the county Comprehensive Plan for its historic district, downtown revitalization, and Historic Area Review Board. As we attract more small businesses to our quaint and beautiful town center, it will be most helpful if we in Lebanon County are successful in protecting, developing, and advertising our many historic resources. Our downtown businesses can benefit greatly from heritage tourism which would provide visitors who will shop, dine, take in a movie or play or concert at the College, hike the Quittie Park, and stay overnight right here in historic Annville.



FOOA Annual Dinner Meeting Held on November 12

An enthusiastic group of 45 persons attended the Friends of Old Annville 2010 Annual Dinner Meeting at the Annville American Legion on Friday, November 12. An opening wine and hors d'oeuvres reception at 6 PM led into a buffet dinner featuring mustard-encrusted roast pork loin and chicken cordon bleu.



President Owen Moe then led a business meeting that included a review of FOOA's 2010 activities, election of board members, and a report from Paul Fullmer on an electronic archive of Annville memorabilia that he has constructed in conjunction with a new pictorial history of Annville Township that Fullmer and FOOA will publish with Arcadia Press.

Moe also presented the 2010 Façade Improvement Grant to David and Sarah Porche for the repainting of their home at 243 East Main Street, and the 2010 Historic Building Award to Vice-President Bob Riley of Lebanon Valley College for the College's restoration of its 1905 Humanities Center.

Kip Kelly (at left), President of Nest Architecture Inc. and board member of the Lebanon Valley Conservancy, gave the address for the evening, speaking on the topic "Heritage Tourism: Growing the Local Economy through Historic Preservation." Mr. Kelly's comments serve as the basis of the President's Message on the first page of this newsletter. The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

FOOA WEST END TOUR DRAWS 100 WALKERS

It was an almost perfect day on Sunday, October 17 when Friends of Old Annville held a guided walking tour of the historic West End of Annville. The tour began at the registration table at the Annville Elementary School at 2 PM and, as people arrived and registered, groups of approximately 25 walkers were matched with tour guides who took them on the 90 minute tour.

The walkers, 100 strong, walked west on Queen Street, which was the central thoroughfare in Annville until the Berks and Dauphin Turnpike was completed in 1817. Later in the tour, the small log and stone homes of Queen Street turned into the larger brick homes of West Main Street.

The walkers stopped for refreshments at the Heilman log house of Mary Lou Harris and toured her colonial gardens



For this event, Friends of Old Annville published a new walking tour booklet, "First Steps in Annville" that outlined the tour and provided images and information for the walkers. It was a beautiful day and we all learned much as we walked through the very oldest neighborhoods in Annville.

Assuring a Strong Future for Friend of Old Annville:

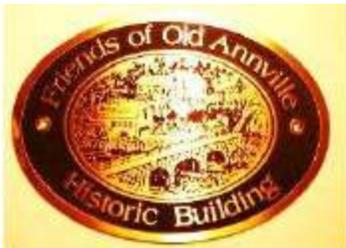
Won't you please think of FOOA when you prepare or update your will. Your legacy perpetuates your values, and it will serve to assure that the Friends of Old Annville will be there as a strong influence for preservation in years ahead. Your kindness will be greatly appreciated and serve to maintain our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

FOOA 2010 Façade Improvement Grant Awarded to Porche Family

David and Sarah Porche own one of Annville's historical gems. Their home, built in the late 1890's by David Saylor in the Queen Anne Revival Victorian style, is one of the grand late 19th century homes on East Main Street in Annville built by and for Annville industrialists. Owned for many years by the Light sisters, and then operated as the Maison Main Bed and Breakfast, the home has three stories, six porches and, when built, it used a system of rain spouts which led through the walls of the home into a large cistern once positioned on the third floor. Rainwater from the cistern was used in a plumbing system built into the home; it constituted the first indoor bathroom in Annville.

This beautiful home has recently been in need of repair and painting of its exterior. The Porches decided to do all of the work themselves, working throughout the summer of 2010 (and then some) to complete the job. The highly detailed nature of the painting is shown in the photo at the left. The Porches applied to the Façade Improvement Grant Program of Friends of Old Annville for assistance

with this huge project. Their grant proposal was accepted by FOOA and our Organization awarded David and Sarah a check for \$2,457 at the Annual Dinner Meeting on November 12. We thank the Porche family for their months of hard work in caring for this beautiful historic Annville home.



LVC Humanities Building Recognized by FOOA

At the 2010 Annual Dinner Meeting, Friends of Old Annville presented its 2010 Historic Building Award to Lebanon Valley College for the College's \$2.3 million restoration of its Humanities Center.

The restoration, led by John Milner Architects of Chadds Ford, PA, involved repointing of all the mortar joints of the building, restoration or replacement of the decorative terra cotta elements, recladding the copper dome of the large cupola, and restoration of the impressive parapet at the main entrance of the building. Milner Architects specialize in historic restorations.

The restoration took nine months to complete. The current building was built in the Tudor Gothic style in 1905 following a fire in 1904 that destroyed the original college administration building. The building now stands as the architectural centerpiece of the College and as an enduring historic landmark in Annville.



THE OLD STORIES, RED PEPPERS (Nellie Bernardo Story - Part 3)

In this issue we conclude the story of Nellie Bernardo as told by Phil Billings and Dan Massad in their book *Porches*. Nellie came to the Annville area as an infant from Italy in 1905, growing up here, living briefly in Ohio, and returning to Annville where she raised eight children and lived out her days. Nellie's story continues:



*Back here along Queen Street
it had a few Germans but mostly us Italians.
But we were all in the same shoes-poor.
The Germans were a little more strict, that's all.
And they ate more potatoes.
People helped each other then,
when they were sick or laid off or something,
people shared their gardens and they talked to you. Now they
just stick theirselves in the house.
It's just Carrie Stober that sometimes waves to me.*

*Then, when you had two nickels to rub together you had a
little party, got a keg, made some good things to eat.
There was the Shoemakers, Lupenettis, Moores, Clodoveos,
the Jumbo Periottis, Stobers, the Viozzis of course.
And we all went to the Annville Picnic.
That's one thing, my kids always got to go to the picnic.
It wasn't like when I was little and my dad told us we could
go to the Lebanon Fair,
we just had to get some tomato poles first and put them in.
Only by the time we was done it had got dark.
How're you going to go anywhere then?
There just wasn't gonna be no fair.*

Yep. What could you do?

*Before I was married I used to have to get up in the dark and
make my wood fire,
then make the coffee and lunches for the boarders,
then I'd start my girlfriend's coffee pot,
she lived across the hall,
before we had to pack our own lunches
and take the trolley to Palmyra to work at the Landis Shoe
Factory.
We used to glue those tips, you know, on the toes.
My girlfriend used to live in Ohio,
and before she came back here my husband asked her
to look out for a wife for him.
I was sick and tired of getting up at 4:00 every morning
and working so hard and not keeping most of the pay,
so she wrote him and said, "I found the girl for you."
He wrote back to my parents, not me - that's how you did it
then,
and my father said sure, come on over. But he wrote my
father back first.*

*It cost \$20 to go to Pennsylvania and back, he said,
if he was coming he meant business.*

*"Yeah," my dad said, "you can have her.
If you want to marry her you can have her."
For me it was like my aunt
and a lot of those other girls that came from over across.
They had to marry the man that met them at the boat
whether they liked the looks of him or not
or they'd get sent right back.
Only I was lucky - mine was okay.
And not so old.
That picture of us on the livingroom wall
one of those traveling fellas took right after the wedding.
I was fourteen.*

Yeah. Them days wasn't like it is today.

*In '68, after my husband retired,
we went back to Castalli.
You still had nothing there a shack, a wood table, maybe a
cot.
But the people, they really treated you wonderful.
And they make beautiful ceramics there.
It's just rocky hills and grape vines. My uncle said
that he and my dad had planted them. I said,
"No wonder yours is all half-crazy!"
I'll tell you a good one.*

*One day I was up on this hill
looking down below and way out into the mountains.
I was thinking about Miss Walters for some reason.
My husband and uncle was coming up to join me,
and these ladies setting on a bench there seen them
and one of them says,
"Here come some Americans.
Look, they've got lots of money, they're loaded."
So I turn and say to her, "Of course we got money.
We get up at four in the morning and earn it .
while yours just sit here in the sun!"
Well they looked at me, then they laughed.
They were so surprised that I knew what they said.
Of course my husband only spoke the high Italian- you know,
the rich people's, the educated kind.
He never let me teach my kids the broken
that most of the people talk.
I always said to him,
"But it's better to teach them something.
At least if someone talks about them they'll understand it.
Nope, none of my wishes ever come true.*

My husband built this house up here above the mill in '52.
 He died in 1981.
 He was a good, hard working man.
 After the kids got married one right after the other,
 it didn't feel so good.
 One minute your house is so full and you're worrying about
 everybody at once,
 next minute it's empty.
 But now all the families come over every Sunday, the kids,
 everybody.
 We just sit and talk –
 On real chairs and a sofa,
 not those powder crates from the quarry like we had.
 We eat something good,
 tell some of the old stories.

During the week I don't do much no more.
 I even sleep in the day sometimes. Catching up, I guess.

I used to can 500 quarts every summer.
 But now my feet ain't steady enough under me to go in the
 garden.
 I'm done for now.
 But I can still do some things in here
 if they bring the food to me.
 Them red peppers I got drying on top the furnace
 are going to be so delicious to eat Sunday,
 I'll fry them and we'll eat them with eggs.
 They're like potato chips,
 only they keep that bite in them.
 This younger generation ain't gonna know things like that
 because they ain't gonna do the work we done.

Nope.
 Nobody ever had a life like me.



NOTES & REMINDERS

- Whatever the holiday or occasion, a gift membership for FOOA will always fit!
- 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
- As this newsletter is being compiled, much of the news, complete with more color photos is already available to you online at www.FOOA.org. If you haven't visited FOOA's website in some time, be sure to look at the new additions with links to all aspects of life past and present in Historic Annville.



From the Annville Free Library

Library Hours: Mon. thru Thurs., 10 AM – 8 PM, Fri. & Sat., 10 AM - 5PM
Library Closed: September 6 & Closed Sundays

Although we all appreciate, but take for granted, the Library's availability on Main Street, you should know that the Annville Free Library is also firmly entrenched in the 21st century ~ with most services, news, and resources now available online at www.lclibs.org/Annville .

You'll find the Library' most up-to-date schedule of programs, activities and events posted, and if you're inclined you can also log onto the Library's Blog at <http://annvillefreelibraryblog.blogspot.com/> or visit the Library on Facebook.

To have an electronic copy of the Library's monthly newsletter delivered directly to your e-mail inbox, just register online, and while you're at it, be sure to look at the Library's volunteer opportunities.



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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 any address changes to: Rachel Noll, 1673 Louser Road, Anville, 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

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