

THE LANDMARK

Volume XXXV No. V

September/October, 2015

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

Public History, Public Art, and Community Memories of Natural Disaster and Recovery

President's Message, by Michael Schroeder

Funny how nature has a way of foiling “the best-laid schemes o’ mice an’ men”. Gazing out my back window toward Quittie Creek on this calm and lovely blue-sky morning, I’m reminded that four years ago today - on September 8, 2011 - Annville awoke to find itself in the midst of a raging flood occasioned by the one-two punch of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Overnight, the normally sleepy waters of Quittapahilla Creek turned into a pummeling torrent, overflowing four bridges crossing into town, ripping up trees, washing away sheds, decks, play structures, and outbuildings, and destroying more than a dozen homes across the township. Four years on, and our local public authorities are still dealing with cleaning up the remnants of the mess.

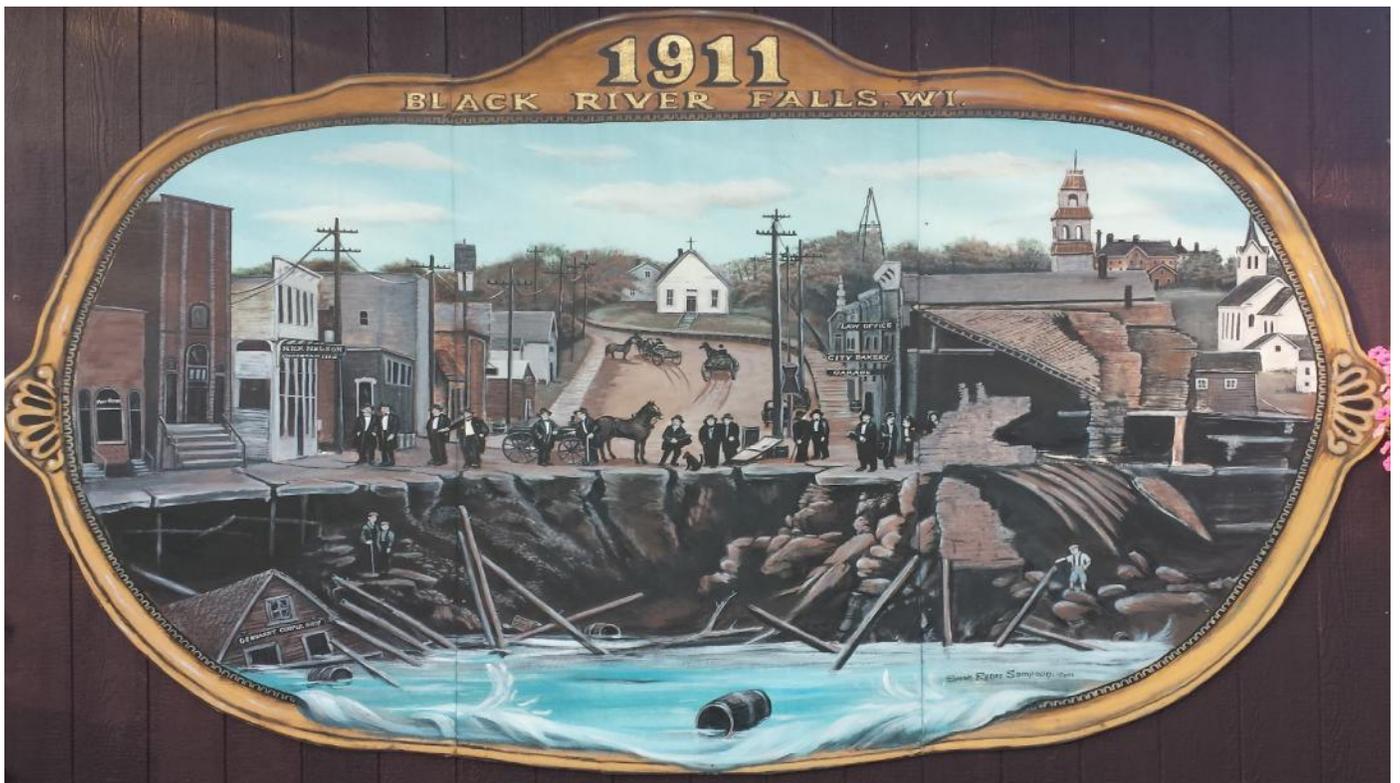
Rewind 100 years. On the evening of Saturday, August 22, 1915, a massive tornado ripped through Annville, damaging upwards of 150 homes and buildings (not including sheds and outhouses) and causing an estimated \$100,000 in damages - \$2.3 million in today’s dollars. “All nature had gone mad,” wrote one news reporter, as if “the elements were on a vengeful mission of destruction.” Fortune smiled in that no lives were lost, but by all accounts the community was traumatized by the sudden fury, “freakish contortions,” and “dreadful effects” of the “cyclonic winds with their violent, destructive eddies that played all kinds of pranks.”

On Sunday, October 11, the Friends of Old Annville will commemorate this 1915 disaster with

our “Cyclone Centennial Walking Tour,” amply documented by yet another of FOOA Vice President Paul Fullmer’s expertly crafted booklets. See the more complete description of the tour and registration details inside this edition of the *Landmark*.

I remember vividly the flip side of the devastation wrought by the September 2011 flood: the extraordinary outpouring of community spirit and collective self-help that emerged in its wake. As stunned local residents scrambled to haul waterlogged debris from their homes, volunteers from around town, across the Lebanon Valley and beyond suddenly appeared, asking, “Can I help?” For some ten days in our little neighborhood on East High St., folks uphill cooked community meals for folks in the flood zone. Hand tools, cleaning supplies, and shop-vacs passed from hand to hand, as extension cords crisscrossed the streets to give power to those without. If direct evidence for it is slim, I imagine much the same happened in the wake of the 1915 cyclone disaster: people helping people. The shared experience of calamity and loss has a way of bringing people together and forging a sense of community like nothing else - as folks who remember the 1972 Hurricane Agnes flood can surely attest.

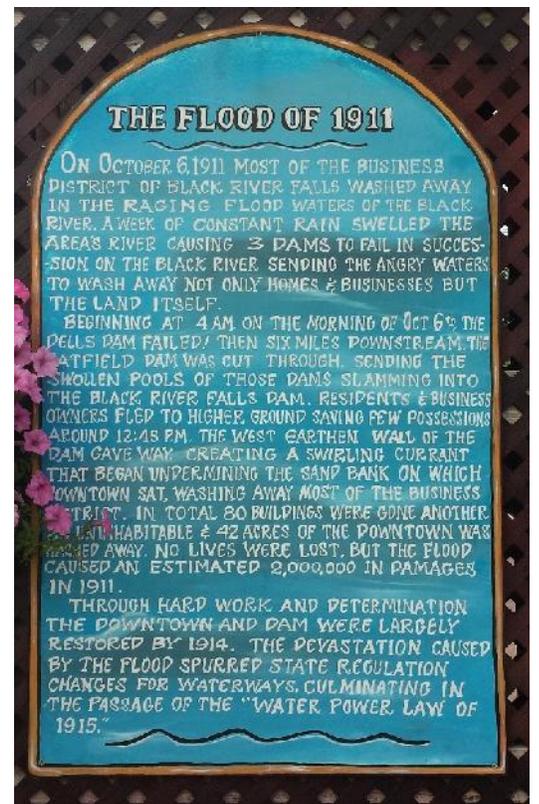
The natural disasters of Annville’s 1972 and 2011 floods and 1915 cyclone got me thinking about my visit to the sleepy little town of Black River Falls, Wisconsin this past summer.



Here, public history and public art combine in creative and compelling ways to commemorate a massive 1911 flood that washed away most of the downtown business district. In the late 2000s, public authorities in Black River Falls commissioned local artist Susan Renae Sampson to create a series of public paintings, accompanied by hand-painted text, to memorialize and bring to life the 1911 disaster. The results are arresting, gripping, entertaining, and wonderfully local - and perhaps offer a lesson or two for our little town.

What about telling public history via public art here in Annville PA? Fortunately, most of our business district was not washed away in floods or ripped asunder in cyclones. But we have lots of prominent outdoor walls, lots of local talent, and lots of our own stories to tell. Colorful community murals grace public spaces in cities and towns across the country, and most people - visitors and locals alike - tend to like public history and public art. It's a prospect worth chewing on as we work to build on our already strong spirit of community, shared history, and sense of place.

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In addition to the Cyclone Centennial Walking Tour, we remind our Friends to mark your calendars for the **2015 FOOA Annual Dinner on Saturday, November 14, at the American Legion Post on S. Manheim St.**, at the ridiculously low price of \$25 per person. Join us in celebrating our community's past, present, and future by registering online, or by mailing in with your check the clip-out coupon inside this edition of the Landmark. Hope to see you there!

Annual Dinner Meeting

Friends of Old Annville

Saturday, November 14, at 6:00 PM

Annville American Legion

35 South Manheim Street in Annville

Featured Speaker

Kelly Withum, Executive Director, Venture Litz

Talk Title: "Preserving a Community's Collective Memory"

Also, Highlights from Recent Donations to Annville's Electronic Archives
& Annual Business Meeting with Pictorial FOOA Retrospective of 2015

Wine and Cheese Mixer, Buffet Dinner (by *Chef on the Go*), Dessert and Coffee
Cost: \$25 per person

Friends of Old Annville Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number Attending _____ @ \$25/person Payment Enclosed \$ _____
(payable to "FOOA")

Mail this form and payment to: Owen Moe, 308 East Main Street, Annville, PA 17003

Deadline for reservations: **November 11, 2015**

NOTE: You can also make reservations online at www.fooa.org/donate-to-fooa/ by filling out the form on that page and by selecting "Annual Dinner" under the Donate to: drop-down window. You can pay for the dinner with a credit card, but you must go through PayPal to do so. If you donate to the Annual Dinner as described, you will be registered for the dinner.

BALLOT FOR ELECTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FRIENDS OF OLD ANNVILLE, INC.

Vice President Paul Fullmer
Secretary Jill Palanzo
Member at Large Rachel Noll
Member at Large Brian Nornhold
Member at Large Susan Raiders

About our new Directors:

Brian H. Nornhold was born in Palmyra, PA and graduated from Palmyra High School. After graduating from Grove City College with a B.A. in Accounting, he obtained his CPA license from the state of Pennsylvania as well as an MBA from Penn State University. Brian has also lived in Pittsburgh PA, Cleveland and Columbus Ohio, and London, England. Over the past 25 years, Brian has gained extensive experience in accounting, auditing, taxes, and financial management in a number of public accounting and corporate financial management roles. He is the owner of NORNHOLD & ASSOCIATES, LLC, at 17 East Main St. in Annville, a professional services firm that provides a wide range of accounting, finance, management consulting, and tax services for individuals and small to medium-sized companies. Brian currently resides in Palmyra with his wife of 17 years, Maureen.



Susan Raiders was born in Newark, NJ and grew up in Bloomfield, NJ. She graduated from Paul VI Regional High School in 1983 and graduated from Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education/English in 1987. In 1996 she graduated from Montclair State University with a Master of Arts in Communications and Science Disorders, before working for the City of Orange Schools in Orange, NJ, and the Winslow Township School District in New Jersey as a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant. Susan currently works as a Special Education Supervisor at Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit in Schnecksville, PA and is working toward her principal certification. She lives in Annville with her husband of ten years, Annville attorney Rich Raiders.



Our outgoing Directors:

FOOA extends its grateful appreciation to outgoing Board Members Laura Charelian and Valerie Weiner. Laura has served the organization in many ways large and small over the past two years, and her positive energy, creative spark, and practical wisdom will be sorely missed. Val, among many other tasks, has expertly crafted every edition of *The Landmark* since 2008 - editing our presidents' messages and news items and photos, selecting juicy tidbits from the FOOA archives to share with our readers, expertly laying out, editing, proofreading, and formatting the sundry pieces that come across her desk. Her expertise, dedication, hard work, and camaraderie, too, will be sorely missed. The FOOA Board extends its abiding gratitude to both of you, Laura and Val, for your exemplary service over the past years.



Cyclone Centennial Walking Tour

Beginning in the parking lot of the Annville Elementary School
205 S. White Oak Street

Sunday, October 11 at 2 p.m.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: WED, OCT 7

The year 2015 marks the passage of a century since a cyclone tore through the heart of Annville Township in the evening of Saturday, August 22, 1915. Join the Friends of Old Annville for a guided walking tour of the route which the cyclone took through town and the devastation left in its path.

Group tours lasting approximately 75 minutes, each with its own tour guide, will begin in the parking lot of Annville Elementary School at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 11.

The tour runs from 205 South White Oak down through the 100 block of South King Street before turning toward the end point at 515 East Main Street, where refreshments will be available. Return car rides from the end point back to the elementary school may be reserved upon request, but will not be generally available.

For this event the Friends of Old Annville local historian Paul Fullmer has crafted a 32-page tour booklet. “The booklet includes every picture known to the Friend,” Fullmer stated, “for a total of 55 images, some of which have never been published before.” The pictures are arranged with excerpts drawn directly from the classic language of the local newspapers of the time. Booklets will be available on the day of the tour for a donation of \$5 per copy.

Among the many interesting sites to view along the way area Bowman House (101 S. Lancaster St), the façade of which was removed in the storm, as well as the Arndt home (46 S. Lancaster St), the Bentz home (51-57 South Manheim St) and the Hartz residence (339 E. Main St), a large neo-Classical house whose massive columns were nearly torn from the building.

“Members of the local community have noted the approach of this centennial for two years now,” noted Michael Schroeder, co-president of the Friends of Old Annville. “So we’re glad to be able to offer the walking tour and anticipate strong participation.”

Guests with artifacts related to the cyclone or Annville history in general are invited to bring items to share with the Friends. Documents, photographs, and special, loved, historic, unique, wacky, or interesting objects are sought. Members of the Board of the Friends will display a couple objects from the town archive as well.



Space on the tour is limited, and community members interested in taking the tour will need to reserve a spot by contacting Owen Moe at moe@lvc.edu or 717.867.4326 by Wednesday, October 7. Keepsake booklets, at a price of \$5 per booklet, must also be reserved in advance.



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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 address change to: Rachel Noll, 1673 Louser Road, Annville, 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 §

RENEWALS

Mrs. John E. Albright	M/M Walter Haber	Ken & Esther Umberger
The Baldwin-Dubin Family	M/M Frank Heilman	Mrs. Glenn Woods
M/M Adam Bentz	Lucille L. Hemperly	Allen & Beverly Yingst
Craig Borges	David & Joan Henise §	Robert & Sue (Kreamer)
M/M Leroy Brandt	M/M James	Freeman
Tim & Audrey Brandt	Tom Risser, DBA Annville Auto Center	M/M J. Frits Niemoller
M/M Richard F. Charles §	Linda L. Rohland	NEW MEMBERS
IT Chief Landin M. Comins	M/M Thomas O. Schaeffer	M/M Leroy Leach
M/M Delmar Cook	Marion G. Shanaman	Lewis & Dorothy Thayne §
Mrs. Jeanne DeLong	Dr. Alice J. Strange	

A membership in Friends of Old Annville is a great, yet inexpensive way to welcome a new neighbor to Annville or to show you remember an old friend from the community. All gift subscriptions are acknowledged by FOOA to the recipient.