

THE LANDMARK

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

Annville in 1839

President's Message: I ran across a wonderful little paper written by former Annville resident Elijah Benjamin Bierman and read before the Lebanon County Historical Society in 1899. Dr. Bierman was born in Berks County in 1839 and earned a PhD from Ursinus College in 1892. He was a member of the founding staff of Lebanon Valley College and served for 25 years as a professor and college president. Dr. Bierman died in 1909 and is buried with his wife in Mt. Annville Cemetery.

Dr. Bierman's article allows us, through the eyes of an imaginary visitor, to see Annville in the year 1839, the year of Dr. Bierman's birth. 1839 was also a time of uncertainty following a major financial crisis in 1837. Using interviews and historical sources, Dr. Bierman brings mid-19th century Annville to life. Quoted below are some interesting 1839 tidbits from the Bierman paper.

"Annville . . . had by actual count one hundred and fourteen houses occupied by families as private residences or as business places; all these buildings were of log, rough stone or frame, with the exception of three . . . which were of brick, and the probable population was between five and six hundred." I look at Annville today and it's hard to imagine the town with only three brick homes. But brick construction did grow rapidly in the three decades after 1839.

"The best informed citizens of the town tell me that the Pennsylvania Dutch was then spoken by everybody, man, woman and child, and that but few made use of the English language." As late as 1839 and Pennsylvania Dutch still held sway!

"As my visitor approaches the town from the east the first house that meets his eye is on the northeast corner of Main and Manheim streets, Mrs. Elizabeth Brightbill's present residence, occupied by Dr. Gideon Fahnestock . . . a young and ambitious physician of thirty-five years, with a successful practice. He visits his country patients on horseback and is frequently obliged to call several horses into service to reach his numerous patients." The east end of town was only slightly beyond the present Allen Theatre, and physicians had to be skilled not only in medicine by also in the equestrian arts.

"There were three school buildings in town. The one-story academy building of limestone on the south side of Main Street, almost opposite Peter Graybill's present residence, which was in charge of a Miss Rohrer as principal, where the so-called higher branches were taught. . . The salary paid to the teacher was from two to three cents a day for each pupil attending." I believe that the limestone school referred to may be the one still standing in the rear of the home at 450 West Main – maybe someone can confirm that for me.

In 1839, *"... everybody burned wood. If there was any coal . . . few knew it or used it. Fireplaces were mostly used for heating as well as for cooking purposes. To 'keep fire' was one of the things necessary in every household. A chunk of partly-burned hickory wood was the best for this use. It was carefully covered over with ashes, and if the wood was all right, and the covering properly done, we were pretty sure to have fire in the morning."*

Without matches, keeping the fire was an essential activity in Annville. So also was the need for a fire company: *"On the north-west corner of King street and Lebanon alley stood the Engine House in which was kept a small hand-engine, this with the aid of the 'bucket brigade' did noble service for many years."*

“As we proceed west . . . we soon reach the old pump in front of Peter Bachman's home . . . on the north side of Main Street. Here many a weary traveler slaked his thirst; here many a thirsty villager drank to satiety and bathed his fevered brow to find relief in the cooling waters. What a benediction a well of good water is to a town!” Water was so important to Annville in 1839: there were 10 public wells in Annville, all of them named after the people or businesses that had drilled them.

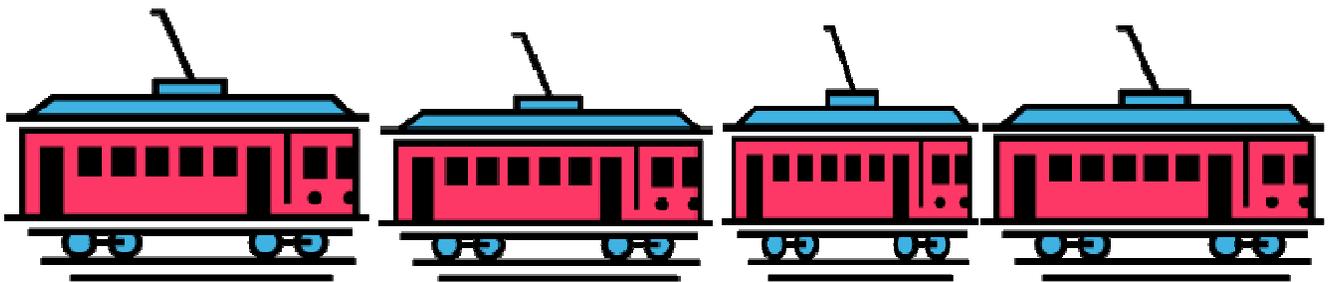
Stagecoaches brought travelers into and out of Annville: *“But hark! do you hear that noise in the distance ? The stage is coming! With what notes of preparation it enters the little village on the old turnpike road. All the town are at their doors, and every lower pane of glass is a juvenile face in a frame to see who has come and who is going, and all about it. How the old coach rattles and plunges down the hill – how it rushes over the bridge at the west end . . . the driver . . . whirls up before the hotel, and reins his prancers in, till the coach rattles and rocks like a ship ashore! The latest news is here from the West.”*

Annville's booming hotel business handled the many travelers: *“On the south-west corner of Main and Whiteoak streets is Henning's Hotel. . . the present (1899) site of Hotel Eagle, one of the leading hostelryes of the village. The landlord is popular and the patronage large. The Black Horse Hotel on Main street, south side, west of Chestnut street . . . is another hotel of large patronage. A third is Lewis Gilbert's Hotel on Main street, south side, a short distance west of the public square. This hotel was the stopping place of President Van Buren and party on their visit in June, 1839. The fourth public house is ‘The Golden Swan’ . . (at the north-west corner of Main and King streets . . .”*

Dr. Bierman continues with descriptions of Annville, businesses, individuals, churches, and even the town militia. It is a brief, but interesting glimpse into mid-19th century Annville. You can read the full article at:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ltmiller/60yrs.html> .

Owen Moe



Mark Your Calendar for Trains Trains Trains

“Trains Trains Trains” is the title of the first set of three videos that trolley and train enthusiast Ed Wagner will show at his new program at the Friends of Old Annville Train Station. Beginning Tuesday, August 19, at 7:00PM, Ed will present one of the videos from his extensive collection of VHS tapes and DVDs featuring trolleys and trains. He says that there are a lot of train enthusiasts out there and a lot of young people who would like to know about trains and travel. He thinks that they need a place to talk to other train buffs. He hopes that sharing his videos will help fill that void. “Who knows where it will go,” he asks?

Ed has been a member of train and trolley organizations for years and a frequent visitor to the FOOA station since it opened. In June, he set up his Hershey Trolley model on the platform under the flagpole at the station some days that the Moyer and Douglas families showed their model trains set up inside.

A different video will be projected each week on Tuesday evenings. Titles of upcoming videos will be posted at the train station, with reminders in each issue of the *Landmark* and on the sandwich board on Main and Moyer Streets. Most videos run about 50 minutes. In deference to younger children, the program will start promptly at 7:05 pm. Trains Trains Trains Tuesday, August 19, 26, and September 2, Annville Station, N. Moyer St.

Fall 2008 Program

HARVEST MILL TOUR
of the **Annville Flouring Mill**

Sunday, October 5, 2008
2 - 4 PM
West Queen St. at the Quittie



Come and tour the oldest operating flour mill in the United

States is located right here in Annville. The limestone mill, built in the mid-18th century, is now owned by McGeary Organics, Inc. and currently produces certified organic flours. On the tour, Mr. Dave Poorbaugh, President of McGeary Organics, will give us a brief overview of the history of the mill itself and mill personnel will show us the various stages in the milling process. Everyone taking the tour will receive a **Pocket History of the Annville Flouring Mill** that is being developed and published by Friends of Old Annville.

If you have any historical memorabilia, photos, newspaper articles, advertising material, or other ephemera related to the Annville Flouring Mill, please bring them to the mill on the day of the tour. Mill personnel will have scanners available during the tour to copy historical information that we bring in. In doing so, we can all help to support Mr. Poorbaugh's research on the mill history.

You can arrive anytime between 2 PM and 4 PM, but plan to stay awhile at the mill site for the festivities: we plan to have live music, refreshments that reflect the harvest time, and a bake sale of products made with flour milled at the Annville Flouring Mill. Bring your lawn chairs, listen to music along the banks of the Quittapahilla Creek, sip fresh apple cider, and enjoy what we hope will be a beautiful fall day. The event will be held rain or shine.

This program will be a fundraiser for Friends of Old Annville, and we therefore ask for a donation of \$10 per person for FOOA members, and \$15 per person for nonmembers. The donation will reserve your copy of a pocket history of the mill. Please fill out the reservation form below, clip it out, and send it as directed below. Deadline for pre-registration is October 2, 2008. Call 867-2476 for further information.



RESERVATION FORM - HARVEST MILL TOUR (Sunday, October 5, 2008)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Number Attending _____ (\$10/person for FOOA members, \$15 for nonmembers)

Payment Enclosed \$ _____ (Payable to FOOA)

Mail this form and donation to *Friends of Old Annville, 515 East Main St., Annville, PA 17003*

Deadline: October 2, 2008
19th Historical Old Annville Day
June 14, 2008

Our Flag Day was a success. The Town was dressed up in red, white and blue! The music was in step.

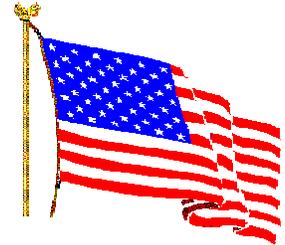
Our opening - singing the Star Spangled Banner, led by Jackie Sweigert and John Martin, was shared by all of us; and then the day began.

Food - tables representing many crafts and fundraisers.

Mr. and Mrs. William Felty, 188 White Oak Street, won decorated door prize.

Our essay from High School seniors: "What our American Flag Means to Me" was won by:

First Prize: Michelle Burkholder
2nd Prize: Cody Page
3rd Prize: Chelsie Zimmerman



Their essays will be printed in our Landmark.

Please thank our sponsors. They were generous with their support and they are the backbone of our Day.

The end of our day was the farewell to our Boom Bas Band - 27 years of pleasure for all of us. We will miss you.
Blanche Schaeffer

Raffle 2008

We mailed out 700 raffle tickets, and 300 stubs and money returned to us. Our winners are: \$500.00 - Karen Mailen. \$250.00 - Grace Davis, and \$100.00 - Carl Casper.

The drawing took place at 1:00 PM at the Bandstand - drawn by Katie Strock. We sold \$495.00 in tickets at the Country Store and among the crown.

Your support was greatly appreciated. This money is used for utilities and insurance on the Train Station. Thank you again.
Blanche Schaeffer

2008 PROPERTY PRIDE AWARD

This year's Property Pride Award was presented by President Owen Moe, at Historic Old Annville Day, to Cris & David Hollinger, for their special care and work on 701 East Main Street. Of special note is the Hollingers' side garden; which the Awards Committee believes embodies the spirit of the award, to "inspire other Annville residents to keep up their properties".

The Property Pride Award dates to the 1980's, and is handled by a dedicated Committee who, year-round, walk about Annville noting properties that are improved and maintained and with special care. In this way the property of the year may be selected in time for artist Jennifer Paulson to complete a custom portrait of the home for July presentation.

We hope you'll share in congratulating the Hollingers, and take the opportunity to stop and peek at their garden from the street.

Annual Dinner Meeting on November 8, 2008

We have made a change in the date and place for the Friends of Old Annsville annual dinner meeting. Due to the closing of the restaurant *Amuse*, we are moving the dinner meeting to the **West Dining Hall of Lebanon Valley College**. We are also changing the date to **Saturday, November 8 at 6 PM**.

We will begin with a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception, followed by a full buffet dinner, and our annual business meeting. For our main address, we will be fortunate to have both Gina Douty, historic preservationist, and Vern McKissick, project architect, of McKissick Associates in Harrisburg. They will talk about their work on the Annsville Downtown Center project and show models and drawings of the overall project design.

We will be doing something new at the annual meeting this year as a fund raiser. We will have available for viewing and ordering a choice of framed photos (the 2008 editions) of historical sites/buildings in Annsville. These pictures will make excellent holiday gifts.

Please save this date, **November 8, 2008**. More information and reservation forms for the dinner will be included in the September-October issue of the Landmark..



The Quittie Creek Park Committee wishes to express its appreciation to Ruth Krebs and Longs Nursery for the donation of three large Red Oak trees that were planted at the Park entrance green area.

Thanks also to Al Yeingst, Donald Thomas, and Galen Kaylor, and the Palmyra Jr. and Sr. Honor students for planting them in April.

Side Car at Railroad Station Restored by Annsville-Cleona Kiwanis Club

Shortly after bringing the train station back to Annsville, Friends of Old Annsville received a railroad side car as a donation from the late Mr. Nevin Bordlemay, a railroad enthusiast. We placed the car on a short set of rails directly in front of the station (north side). The car, a genuine railroad artifact, gives a further sense of history to the station.

In the past several years, exposure to the elements caused extensive deterioration of the wooden frame of the side car. All of the wood was extensively damaged and desperately needed to be replaced. The Annsville-Cleona Kiwanis Club came quickly to our rescue.

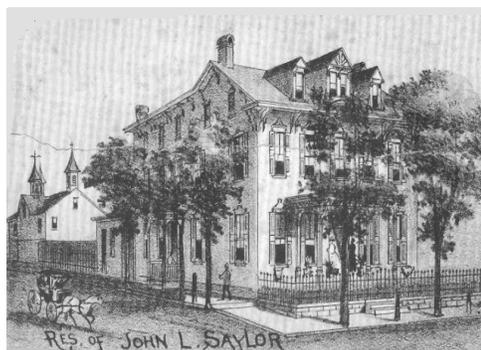


Tom and Betty Svirsko of Kiwanis got the project underway by donating several large beams of California redwood. Carroll Snoke, also of Kiwanis, measured the original beams and planks to provide dimensions for the cutting of the new wood at Books Olde Planning Mill. Mr. Snoke also pre-drilled all cut pieces so that assembly could be carried out on site at the station. On Monday, May 19, a group from Kiwanis met at the

station and painted the wheels and axles, assembled and fastened the new wooden platform, and then gave it a coat of wood preservative.

We could not have asked for a better group to do this project – they built the car according to the original design and specs, and they donated all work and materials. Friends of Old Annville now has a beautifully restored sidecar on our track in front of the train station. Stop by sometime, have a seat, see the sidecar, and just enjoy the train station – who knows, a train may come by at that very moment.

Thank you so much from FOOA to Annville Kiwanis.



Investing In Annville's Future

Over the last year, most of us who travel Route 422 have had occasion to marvel at the progress being made in restoration of 301 East Main Street (“Dr. Monteith’s home” to Annville’s natives). Surprised as the patriotic color scheme emerged, we watched as the sidewalk was exchanged for stone pavers, and were awed by the fact that through cold, wet, hot and dry weather, the job seemed to unfold smoothly and continuously.

For owners Julie and Tom Tshudy, this amazing transition has not felt quite so smooth and seamless as they’ve worked from day one – tackling the old house owner’s question (against which ‘chicken or egg first?’ pales by comparison) - *where* do you start? (and how do you order those jobs to keep each contractor from damaging work already completed or interfering with another job)?? Looking at the scope of the project undertaken, and the finished product ~ this has been a challenge that the Tshudy’s have met and overcome.



Restoration of the home, with its conversion to a Bed & Breakfast Inn, has been a family affair, or actually an *extended* family affair, as friend and neighbor, Sarah Carpenter, has worked alongside the Tshudys and will, with the aid of her 16 year-old sister, help with the operations of the B&B. The Tshudy’s three sons and their daughter Trish (shown exhausted while Julie, and Sarah put finishing touches on the crystal chandelier she cleaned), have all have played a role in giving new life to the gracious 1875 home.

Although the Tshudy’s renovated a prior home in Colorado, that they say ‘broke them in’, they currently reside in a modern home in North Annville

Township and admit this is their first restoration project of this magnitude. Fortunate to have a brother who is an electrician who re-wired the home, Tom Tshudy also credits his brother with overseeing much of the work.

While the family members have taken obvious pleasure in sharing in the selections of colors, design, and furnishings to date, they recognize that they have easily expended an amount equal to the home’s purchase price on its restoration and conversion. While all systems have been brought up to snuff, the Tshudys have reworked the exterior of the property, completed extensive landscaping to include paving, planting, and a koi

pond; have added and renovated bathrooms and kitchen; installed central air conditioning, stripped and fully-resurfaced all walls prior to priming and wallpapering, fully furnished the entire Inn and more. Combining Victorian patterns and warm colors, in keeping with Julie's southwest orientation, the finished product is both elegant and inviting.

For its guests, the B&B features two double-suites and a single suite with balcony on the second floor. Each bedroom hosts a massive four poster bed, while deep comfy sofas, placed in the sitting rooms, along with a plantation style desk, convert to offer further sleeping accommodations for families. The Tshudy's have provided a separate bath for each suite, and guests will come down to breakfast in a bright sunroom, with copper ceiling, and town square style clock.



The patriotic theme that greets you in the home's red, white and blue color scheme, is echoed in the break-fast room ~ honoring Tom's military career and deep love of country. Retired as a Lt. Colonel and attorney from the Air Force, after 22 years of active



and reserve duty, Tom's country means a lot to him. As the Bed & Breakfast expects to hold an open house in the near future, we won't spoil the surprise by revealing all the details.

But of note, when asked how they came to purchase the property, the Tshudys indicated that it wasn't the first they'd considered on Main Street in Annville. Enthused by the Streetscape Project, Historic Old Annville Day, and the soon-to-come Downtown Redevelopment, they believed it was a sound investment. Recognizing the enormity of this investment, this is testament, indeed, to the Community and the vision for its future. So as the Tshudys begin their new enterprise in one of Annville's lovely Victorian ladies, we wish them the best!

Don't Forget: Visit online at www.fooa.org for news, tours, and the latest Landmark in color.

Also remember that the **Friends of Old Annville Train Station** is open for visitors Tuesdays 7-9 PM and Saturdays from 9-Noon. The Station is also available for parties and events by calling 717-867-0770.

Annville Free Library News: Given a huge array of special programs for children and adults, please be sure to 867-1802 and ask for program details! As just a sampling for September:

- ❑ **Smart Start Infant & Caregiver Storytime:** Tuesday Sept 23 - Oct 14
- ❑ **Pre-School Storytime:** Starting September 16th & 18th
- ⊗ **READ ABOUT IT! Book Discussion Program** sponsored by the PA Humanities Council & facilitated by Dr. Matt Willen of Elizabethtown College. This discussion group will explore the series "American Life Stories" featuring memoirs of various authors. FREE program, starting Mondays Sept 8th. Call the Library before August 18th. Class limited to 30 participants who will receive free copies of the four featured books & an opportunity to meet the author.
- ⊗ **Take a Break Tuesday: Sept 30th : "60 Hikes within 60 Miles: Harrisburg"** presented by Matt Willen.

