

THE LANDMARK

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

Looking to 2018 & Beyond: Moving FOOA Forward

President's Message, by Michael Schroeder

As the chill winds of early winter presage the warmth & cheer of the coming holiday season, we pause to take stock of FOOA's accomplishments over the past year and sketch our path forward for 2018 and beyond. Entering my second full year as President, I'm happy to report that the organization hasn't fallen apart yet. On the contrary: our Board is as dynamic and active as ever, we've grown in membership - now well over 400 - and we're exploring new ways to contribute to the Annville community. We've updated our by-laws and Façade Grant guidelines, and are working to improve our signature event of the year - Historic Old Annville Day - by including historical reenactors, historic building tours, and other historical elements.

The 40-some members in attendance at our Annual Dinner Meeting on Saturday, November 11 elected six members to the Board, each for two-year terms. **Tucker Hull**, starting his second full term, is now our Secretary. **Brian Nornhold** begins his second full term as Treasurer. Members at Large are **Jill Palanzo**, who stepped down as Secretary and is starting her sixth term; **Rachel Noll**, who's served as our Membership Coordinator for as long as anyone can remember; **Mark Leshner**, who's serving his first full term; and **Liz Lingle**, our newest Board Member.

Also at the Annual Dinner Meeting we had fun bringing in former FOOA Vice President, and, in the hearts & minds of many, lifetime honorary member of the Annville community Paul Fullmer from California on an impromptu (!) telephone call. And we were enlightened by an exceptionally engaging and well-received talk by Dr. Silas Chamberlin, CEO of Downtown, Inc., on the challenges of historic preservation and economic development in historic downtown York, PA.

Members also heard about our successful fund-raising campaign for the purchase of 2.64 acres to be added to Quittie Creek Nature Park, along the north bank of Quittie Creek from East High St. east to Bachman Road. We expect the final papers to be signed in early January. Bountiful thanks to Fred & Tanya Richter for donating the funds for the land purchase, and to the 54 community members who generously donated funds for the subdivision of the property, easement purchase, legal fees, and associated costs.

Speaking of Fred Richter and Paul Fullmer, guess who's co-authored a children's book on Annville history, called *A Is for Annville: Exploring Annville from A to Z*, that will be available for purchase in December 2017? Please see the description and order form on page 5 - a wonderful gift for the holidays!

Looking to 2018 and beyond, the Historic Old Annville Day Committee, chaired by Doug Nyce, invites ideas and volunteers for adding historical elements to our annual street fair showcasing downtown Annville. We're also looking to expand our membership, make our Façade Grants more widely known among homeowners and businesses in the Historic District, and contribute in new ways to the Annville community. Please be in touch if you'd like to lend a hand! As with all such historic preservation societies and community organizations, Friends of Old Annville is only as strong as its members make it.

In the meantime, Happy Holidays & a Joyous New Year to all!

From Deer Path to United States Highway: Main Street in Annville

By Douglas L. Nyce, FOOA Vice President

The recent repaving of U.S. Route 422 brought to mind the connection of this road to the history of Annville and our great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (it also means the Friends of Old Annville will need to repaint the numbers we use for the Historic Old Annville Day booths!).

As do several of Pennsylvania's oldest roads, Main Street, Annville, has a history dating back to pre-history. In fact, its history can be dated back to pre-European settlement. Though sign-posted as U.S. Route 422 since 1926, the Annville stretch of the route began its documented existence as an Indian path. Indeed, it may be asserted that, as most Indian paths started as deer paths through the thick Pennsylvania forest, it would not be unreasonable to credit the deer with blazing the first path through what would become the town of Annville.

We are indebted to Annville resident and transplanted Canadian Professor of English at Lebanon Valley College, Dr. Paul A. W. Wallace, for much of the research on Route 422's pre-European origins. Wallace's *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania* (1965) documents the many Native American paths that became European roads, such as Route 322, later known as the Horse Shoe Road from Downingtown to Harrisburg, and Route 422, portions of which were initially known as the Perkiomen Path and the Allegheny Path, and later known as the Berks and Dauphin Turnpike and the Benjamin Franklin Highway from Philadelphia to Harrisburg. It would have been only natural and wise for Europeans to use Indian paths as the bases for their own roads, just as the Indians had used the deer paths to develop their own trails, rather than blazing entirely new routes.

Along our own section of the Allegheny Path, the town of Annville developed between the Quittapahilla Creek, another obvious means of

transport, and the Path. The Path was "a footpath established by Native Americans that extended from Philadelphia to Harris Ferry (later Harrisburg) and westward. It is rumored that George Washington travelled along this path in the late 18th Century, and may have even stopped at a tavern in Annville."¹



*"Main Street, Looking West, Annville PA."
Postcard from the 1890s, showing trolley tracks
and an unpaved Main St.*

The Allegheny Path, however, predates Harris's Ferry. The present borough of Paxtang is along the Path not far from the later location of the ferry and the large Native American village of the same name in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Wallace writes that the path "ran from the Delaware River at Philadelphia, through Morgantown and Paxtang (Harrisburg), to various points on the Allegheny River."²

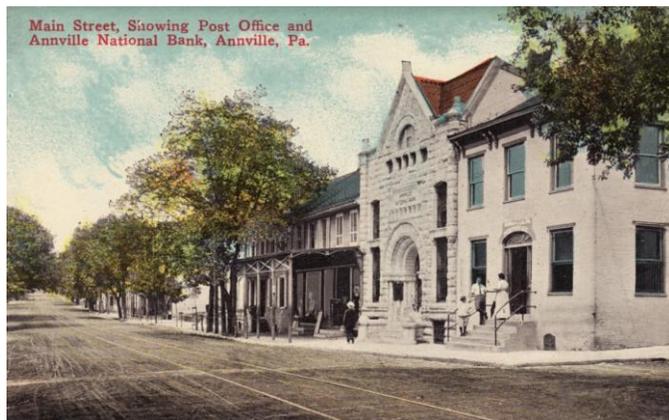
As occurred famously at Paxtang, German and Scotch-Irish squatters displaced the Native Americans and settled in what would become Annville as early as 1719. Later actual purchasers of land included the big three: Andrew Miller (232 acres on February 4, 1747), Adam Ulrich (222 acres in November of 1751), and Abraham Raiguel, Sr. (50 acres on June 12th, 1770).³ Settlers Miller and

¹ Paul M. Fullmer and the Friends of Old Annville, *Images of America: Annville Township* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011), 8.

² Paul A. W. Wallace, *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg PA: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1965), 19.

³ Joseph H. Warner, *History of Annville* (published in *The Annville Journal*, Aug. 15 to Sept. 26, 1908).

Ulrich and investor Raiguel “developed a grid work of streets through a series of negotiations between 1763 and 1764.”⁴ They were essentially 18th century property developers laying out the streets we use today.



Main Street, Showing Post Office and Annville National Bank, Annville, Pa.

“Main Street, Showing Post Office and Annville National Bank, Annville, Pa.” Postcard from the 1890s.

It is interesting to note that Annville has a rich history of philanthropy among its successful developers. As with the Fink family donating land for Annville High School in the 1950s, the Raiguel family gifted land for the Jerusalem Church, Parsonage and School on South White Oak Street in the 1790s.

The enlargement into a modern road of what we now know as Route 422 (deer typically travel in single file through paths, so they are often quite narrow) began in colonial times as various communities through which it passed petitioned for a King’s Road or Cart Road. If approved, the Crown or the Proprietors funded the widening and levelling of the road allowing carts and later coaches to pass.

The first stage coach on what is now route 422 began service in the 1790s running between Philadelphia and Reading once per week. Travel to Reading from Philadelphia took two days and cost \$2.00.⁵ Following the American Revolution, canals and turnpikes were all the rage as the nation moved to expand commerce through improved shipping by road and waterways. Road improvements were

funded through tolls, while canals were often funded through lotteries as well as public and private investment. Construction on the Berks and Dauphin Turnpike began in 1805 and was completed in 1816.⁶

The term “turn-pike” comes from the necessity of turning a long pole or pike to the side to allow passage of horses and horse drawn vehicles (and later cars and trucks) after the payment of a toll. Again, the toll funds would be used to pay off the construction cost and the collection would (theoretically) be terminated when the road was paid off. Fuller notes that in 1817 “a tollhouse was established at the 600 block of East Main Street” Annville, for the benefit of the Berks-Dauphin Turnpike.⁷

Local communities often had (and continue to have) their own local name for roads shared with other communities – similar to the Appalachian Mountains being known in various locales as the Smokies, Alleghenies, Poconos, Adirondacks, etc. Locally we name our own Appalachians as South Mountain, Blue Mountain and even Mount Annville! Route 422 is not only known as Main Street in Annville, but is also known as Perkiomen Ave. in Exeter (where it was the Perkiomen Path), Penn Ave. in Reading (and every town west of Reading through Wernersville), Penn Ave. in Cleona, Lincoln Ave. in Myerstown, Main Street in Palmyra, Cumberland Street in Lebanon, Chocolate Avenue in Hershey, and Derry Street in Paxtang, among many others. It’s the Conrad Weiser Parkway outside the Conrad Weiser Homestead. South of Reading, it’s even known as the Albert Boscov Memorial Highway. In Norristown, the Perkiomen Path, which became the Philadelphia to Reading portion of Route 422, was known as Ridge Road as it passed over ridges with well-known and beautiful views, and as the Egypt Road, as the local Perkiomen (“place where the mulberries grow”) Creek floods yearly at its mouth at Norristown, fertilizing the fields and reminding early European settlers of the Nile River’s annual floods of biblical proportions.⁸

It should be noted that in the early 18th century, what is now Main Street in Annville was not intended by the big three property developers to be the main

⁴ Fullmer, et al., *Annville Township*, 8.

⁵ John T. Faris, *Old Trails and Roads in Penn’s Land* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1927), 58.

⁶ Ibid, 140.

⁷ Fullmer, et al., *Annville Township*, 8.

⁸ Faris, *Old Trails and Roads in Penn’s Land*, 173.

street. Instead, Queen Street was initially planned as the main street through town, with King as its north-south connector, as was the case in many colonial towns. However, Queen was unlikely to become the main street as the hustle and bustle of the Allegheny Path encouraged development, including the building of taverns, hotels and stores on Main Street.

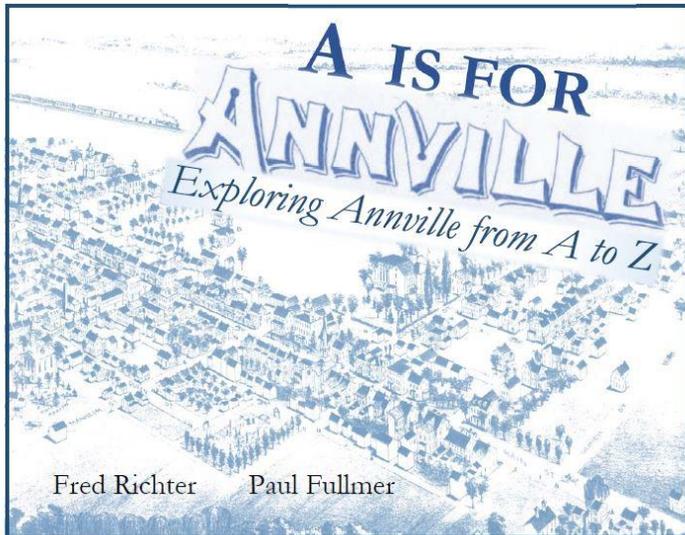
In the later 18th and early 19th centuries, Main Street's future was ensured as the town expanded, a market square was built to the north of Queen, and stone arch bridges were built over the Quittapahilla to the west and south of town on White Oak and Main Streets. Our Main Street, Annville has a rich history as well as an enduring legacy of transport and commerce.



"Main St. Annville, Pa. Pub. By Boyer Electric Co. 1931." All the above images from the Friends of Old Annville Electronic Archives of Annville History.

The Friends of Old Annville, Inc., an all-volunteer, non-profit corporation with over 400 members, offers annual memberships at the ridiculously low price of \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families, and \$25 for businesses — a great yet affordable way to become involved in your local community. Gift memberships can be a wonderful way to welcome your new neighbors, demonstrate pride in your community, or show that you remember an old friend. Membership fees support our Façade Grant, seasonal programs, and other initiatives.

New Children's Book Features Annville History



Looking for a Christmas gift for the family with everything? This holiday season marks the release of a new pictorial history designed just for children and families.

A is for Annville engages children in the history of a historic Pennsylvania community through the creative display of hundreds of photographs. Brief texts on each page provide additional information for children and adults alike. Continuing the Conversation adds discussion questions throughout the book to stimulate further inquiry.

As young book lovers and their parents, grandparents, or older friends explore the pictures together, their relationships grow, as does their knowledge of Annville's distant - and not-so-distant - past. And our lives in the community are enriched.

Copies of the book will be available in December. These copies may be pre-ordered by Monday, December 18, 2017 for just \$15 each, or purchased after that date for the regular selling price of \$18 each. (All prices include sales tax.) Following their arrival, the books may be picked up at 102 Locust Street in Annville free of charge. Alternatively, copies may be delivered to addresses for just \$2/order if the address is within five miles of Annville Township. Or books will be mailed at a cost of \$5/order.

90 pages. Hardback. Color. Profits will go to the Friends of Old Annville's Façade Grant Program and other community initiatives.

ORDER FORM: *A is for Annville*

NAME _____ PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

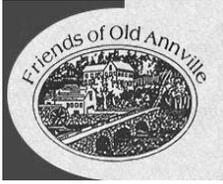
STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Please reserve me ___ copy/copies of *A is for Annville*.

I've enclosed \$15 \$18 per copy and an additional \$0 \$2 \$5 for shipping.

Checks, made payable to "The Friends of Old Annville," may be mailed to
102 Locust Street, Annville, PA 17003.



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Address Service Requested

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please note 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. 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 § Founder \$ 250 ❖

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