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# THE LANDMARK

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

## Book in Preparation Commemorating 40th Anniversary of the Annville Historic District & Founding of FOOA

### President's Message, by Michael Schroeder

Best as I recall, the idea clicked after our HOAD (Historic Old Annville Day) planning meeting this past January 30. Heading home, it occurred to me that the year 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Annville Historic District and the founding of FOOA in 1979 — and, that thanks to Paul Fullmer's magnificent Digital Archives of Annville History and the work of Sylvia Popejoy and our other supporters, we'd accumulated tons of documentation on the Historic District. Plus, a few days earlier, Tanya Richter had left at my front door a slew of black & white negatives and contact sheets from the 1978 historic district nomination document. Plus, as a historian I'm a sucker for anniversaries.

How about a documentary history? Ready for sale at HOAD on Saturday, June 8? The timeline would be tight; it'd have to be simple. A brief introduction. Crisp introductions to the documents. Let the documents tell the story. We could include FOOA's nomination document of December 1978 and inventory of buildings, select photographs and newspaper stories, the minutes of some key meetings, and that'd be that.

So, I banged out a Google Doc (which permits multiple authors to work on the same document) — blocked out the chapters — gathered some key primary sources — asked permission of the FOOA Board (thumbs up!) — and put out a call on Facebook for volunteers to help with transcribing and other tasks. That call for help netted two volunteers who've done absolutely splendid work: Megan Ball, a newcomer to Annville, and Jordan Hoffsmith, a native Annvillian whose father Jerry owns Colonial Craft Kitchens on West Main Street.

The manuscript in progress, which we hope to get to the printer by May 1 (\*knock\*on\*wood\*) is titled *Preserving History, Building Community: A Documentary History Celebrating 40 Years of the Historic District in Annville, Pennsylvania, 1979-2019*. We're looking at large-format (8.5 x 11) paperback book

of 120 or so pages, probably published by Kutztown Publishing Co. in Allentown, at a sale price of \$10, with all proceeds going to FOOA. Because it's not finished, we're not accepting pre-orders, but we are accepting requests to reserve copies (email me at [mjsch313@yahoo.com](mailto:mjsch313@yahoo.com), or mail a note to 189 School House Lane, Annville PA 17003).

The remainder of this President's Message is offered as a kind of teaser, with the Table of Contents and excerpts from the Preface & Acknowledgements and Introduction. Here goes:

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## Preface & Acknowledgements

In January 2019, Tanya Richter, longtime Annville resident, citizen-activist, and founding member and former president of the Friends of Old Annville, Inc. (FOOA) left a large envelope outside my front door. A few days before, amid the food and drink and clatter and chatter of the opening of the *Dorothea Lange's America* exhibition at the Suzanne H. Arnold Art Gallery at Lebanon Valley College, she'd said something about dropping off some old photos before she and Fred (her husband) hightailed it to warmer climes to escape the dismal Annville winter weather.

A few months earlier, I'd scanned and uploaded into FOOA's Digital Archives a large collection of papers kindly donated by longtime local attorney and active citizen John Feather (also my wife Karen's cousin). Among the papers was an inventory of some 300 Annville buildings, dated December 1978 and signed by one William K. Watson on behalf of the Friends of Old Annville, in what looked to be an application for Historic District status. It was hard to tell; the first few pages were missing. I remember feeling surprised that FOOA was organized as early as 1978. That's one of the advantages of being a newcomer to Annville (only since 2008) — always learning something new.

It turned out that the nearly 100 black & white negatives and contact sheets that Tanya left at my front

door were photographs of Annville's historic buildings that accompanied the December 1978 nomination document to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for the creation of the Annville Historic District. And it turned out that FOOA wasn't formally constituted until 1979, the same year that the Historic District designation was granted.

The timing seemed too auspicious: 40 years on the nose — for both the creation of the Historic District and the founding of the Friends of Old Annville. Digging a bit more through FOOA's Digital Archives and beyond revealed a treasure trove of documentation on the creation and practical implementation of the Annville Historic District. This commemorative documentary history is the result — inspired in the first instance by Tanya Richter's indomitable quest that our community preserve, remember, and honor the history of our town.

The book was also inspired by the enthusiasm of the FOOA Board of Directors for the project: Vice President Doug Nyce, Treasurer Kathy Moe, Secretary Tucker Hull, and Members at Large Jim Gill, Mark Leshner, Liz Lingle, Joerg Meindl, Rachel Noll, and Jill Palanzo. . . . also Owen Moe . . . Paul Fullmer . . . Sylvia Popejoy . . . volunteers Jordan Hoffsmith and Megan Ball . . . (remainder in progress) . . .

## Introduction

In the words of the U.S. National Park Service, the nation's premier professional historic preservation society, charged by Congress with designating historic sites and historic districts,

“Historic preservation is a conversation with our past about our future. It provides us with opportunities to ask, ‘What is important in our history?’ and ‘What parts of our past can we preserve for the future?’ Through historic preservation, we look at history in different ways, ask different questions of the past, and learn new things about our history and ourselves. Historic preservation is an important way for us to transmit our understanding of the past to future generations.”

The brick and mortar and wood and stone and design and feel of old buildings make that conversation possible. Historic preservation means lots of things. For our little historic preservation society here in Central PA, it mainly means preserving and celebrating the delightful historical character of our town, and in so doing working to cultivate a shared sense of place and community — a shared sense of

rootedness in and connection to this place — a shared sense that the histories of the people and buildings in this place merit knowing and telling and celebrating and honoring.

The year 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Annville Historic District and the founding of the Friends of Old Annville, Inc., a non-profit grassroots civic organization devoted to historic preservation and service to the community. The short version of our story is that in the late 1970s, a small group of Annville citizens, dismayed by the demolition of a number of prominent downtown buildings, organized to create the Annville Historic District. Their collective efforts spawned the formal organization of the Friends of Old Annville, Inc., which after 1979 took on a life of its own, as did the Historic District that its founders worked so hard to create.

In the 1960s, two laws — the 1961 Pennsylvania Historic District Act and the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act — made possible the creation of the Annville Historic District as a legally constituted place. . . .

[ . . . *continued in the book . . . reserve your copy now!* ]

# Planning underway for the 31st Historic Old Annville Day

Douglas L. Nyce, HOAD Coordinator

The Friends of Old Annville will present the 31st Annual Historic Old Annville Day (HOAD) to be held Saturday, June 8, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. As in past years, West Main Street will be closed for eight blocks to create the massive street fair of some 150 vendors, a great variety of food, and three stages of musical performances.



The history of this event goes back nearly a century to Annville Days at Hershey Park when members of the community would travel by train and trolley to the Park for a day of picnicking, rides, swimming and other sports. These days, HOAD retains the focus on community in Annville with the celebration occurring right in the middle of town.

Local residents enjoy visiting with their neighbors, former residents who've come back for the event, and visitors from neighboring communities. Vendors display a variety of products and foods for sale. Many local non-profits have booths to share information about their work.

Historical reenactors, including a blacksmith, will be showing some of the processes involved in 18th-century building trades. Self-guided tours of the National Historic District will also be available at the Friends of Old Annville Information Booth.

Please consider sponsoring the event through making an additional gift to FOOA. Your gift will be acknowledged in the printed HOAD Program. Historic Old Annville Day is our biggest fundraiser of the year, with the funds raised going directly into historic preservation work through the FOOA Façade Grant Program, Historic Building Award and Property Pride Award. When making a sponsorship gift, please note as much on your check or money order. If giving through Paypal on the FOOA website, please put "HOAD Sponsorship" in the notes. Thank you for supporting the preservation of historic old Annville!

## Gift Levels for HOAD Sponsorship:

**Diamond Level (\$200 and up)**

**Platinum Level (\$100 to \$199)**

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## 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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