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# THE LANDMARK

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Volume XL, No. V

September/October 2019

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

## Annual Dinner Sat. Nov. 9 with Dr. Leroy Hopkins • Tour of the Historic Mills House, Sun. Oct. 20 • Preserving Annville History

### President's Message, by Michael Schroeder

We're delighted to announce that Dr. Leroy Hopkins, retired Professor of German at Millersville University, where he taught for some three decades, and founder and President of the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania (AAHSSCPA, based in Lancaster) will serve as our featured speaker at FOOA's Annual Dinner on Saturday, November 9 at the Connor-Streicher American Legion Post on South Manheim St. in Annville. Titled "In Search of Lebanon County's African American Heritage," Dr. Hopkins' talk will focus on an important but neglected dimension of Lebanon County and Annville history. Please see the pullout on page 3 for registration information. We hope you can join us for this annual celebration and recap of the past year's activities. We'll also be voting on a slate of candidates to our Board of Directors, as detailed on the next page. And, for those of you who've not yet purchased our new book, *Preserving History, Building Community: A Documentary History of the Historic District in Annville, Pennsylvania, 1979-2019*, we hope we'll still have a few remaining copies of the first printed batch for sale.

A few weeks before our Annual Dinner, on Sunday, October 20 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., our Fall Program will feature a tour of the historic Mills House at 444 East Main Street (the onetime home of former FOOA Vice President Paul Fullmer). Turn to page 4 for more information about this tour of one of Annville's most iconic and beautifully preserved historic homes.

On a longer-term front, our ongoing efforts to preserve and protect documentary evidence relating to Annville history continue apace. In the past months, our diligent volunteer Sylvia Popejoy has digitized nearly 500 photographs on various aspects and periods of our town's past kindly donated by Tanya & Fred Richter. Our next challenge will be to organize and digitize the thousands of pages of FOOA-related documents that the Richters had accumulated over their past four-plus decades of community activism. The FOOA Board has also authorized the installation of shelving in the Old Train



*Dr. Leroy Hopkins, founder and President of the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania ([www.aahsscpa.org](http://www.aahsscpa.org)).*

Station to house professional-grade archival boxes for long-term storage of the hard-copies of Annville-related documents and materials that for many years have been squirreled away in the closets and attics of various FOOA Board members. One of the funny things I learned working on our new book is that trying to figure out what to do with all the material artifacts on Annville history has proven rather a headache since before FOOA was formally founded. We expect that the ample safe storage space envisioned in the Old Train Station will provide a practical, long-term solution to this perennial conundrum, and provide visitors and researchers with ready access to the many gems we've accumulated over the past decades.

Circling back to our Annual Dinner, in addition to the fun activities we have planned that'll remain mum for now, we'll be asking our assembled members to join us in extending our sincere gratitude to three departing Board members for all their work on behalf of FOOA over the past years - Jim Gill, who's served since 2017; Liz Lingle, who's served since 2018; and Kathy Moe, who generously agreed to step in as

Interim Treasurer in 2018. We'll also be welcoming two new Board members to our ranks: Megan Ball, up for election as Treasurer, and Melissa Barlow, who served as this year's fundraising coordinator for Historic Old Annville Day. Finally we're grateful to Mark Leshar, Jill Palanzo, and Rachel Noll, who've agreed to continue serving on the Board. Our heartfelt thanks to all!

**BALLOT FOR ELECTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FRIENDS OF OLD ANNVILLE, INC.  
AT THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING ON SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2019**

**Treasurer . . . . . Megan Ball (2020-2022)**  
**Member at Large . . . . . Melissa Barlow (2020-2022)**  
**Member at Large . . . . . Mark Leshar (2020-2022)**  
**Member at Large . . . . . Jill Palanzo (2020-2022)**  
**Member at Large . . . . . Rachel Noll (2020-2022)**



**Megan Ball**, whose work was critical to the completion of our new book documenting the history of Annville's historic district, moved to Annville in June 2018 with her husband Matt. Before moving to Annville, Megan & Matt lived in Savannah, GA, where Megan was deeply involved in the research and preservation of the city's historic homes and neighborhoods. She thoroughly enjoyed collaborating on our book project, acquainting herself with the many interesting details of Annville history and its lovely historic district, and is eager to assume the role of FOOA Treasurer.

**Melissa Barlow** has had a lifelong interest in all things antique and historic. A native of western Pennsylvania, she has lived in Annville for the past seven years. She has restored an 18th century plantation in Virginia and a 19th century PA German Stone home, and now she and her partner Ralph Fetrow are focusing on their home at 244 E. Main St., a.k.a. the Shanaman house, built in 1867. They are pleased to continue to care for their wonderful home and make sure it survives another 150-plus years. For a decade she worked for PNC Bank as VP of Commercial Lending, and over the years has given her time to numerous non-profit boards and fundraising projects in Central PA. Mother of two daughters and two sons, she has three grandchildren and enjoys spending time with her family, caring for her horses and Sicilian donkey, conducting genealogical research, and enjoying nature.



**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.

# Annual Dinner Meeting

## Friends of Old Annville

Saturday, November 9, at 6:00 PM

Annville American Legion, 35 South Manheim Street in Annville

### Featured Presentation

## “In Search of Lebanon County’s African-American Heritage”

With Dr. Leroy Hopkins, President,  
African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania

Also, Annual Business Meeting with Pictorial FOOA Retrospective of 2019 and other fun activities you won’t want to miss!

Wine and Cheese Mixer, Buffet Dinner by *Chef on the Go* (Rebecca Briody), Dessert & Coffee

Cost: \$30 per person



### Friends of Old Annville Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30/person

Payment Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(payable to “FOOA”)

Mail this form and payment to Megan Ball, 202 West Sheridan Street, Annville, PA, 17003

Deadline for reservations: Friday, November 1, 2019

NOTE: You can also make reservations online at [www.fooa.org/donate-to-fooa/](http://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.

## *Friends of Old Anville Fall Program*

# **Tour of the Historic Mills House, 444 East Main Street**

**Sunday, October 20, 2-4 p.m.**

Join us for a leisurely tour of the historic Mills House at 444 East Main Street on Sunday, October 20 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. To convey a flavor of the historic significance and beauty of this iconic Anville home, which is currently for sale, we transcribe below a feature article from the *Sunday News* from 35 years ago, when the house was owned by local artist Bruce Johnson and his wife Donna Johnson (back in the days when the local newspaper actually covered local news).

### **Annville Revisited**

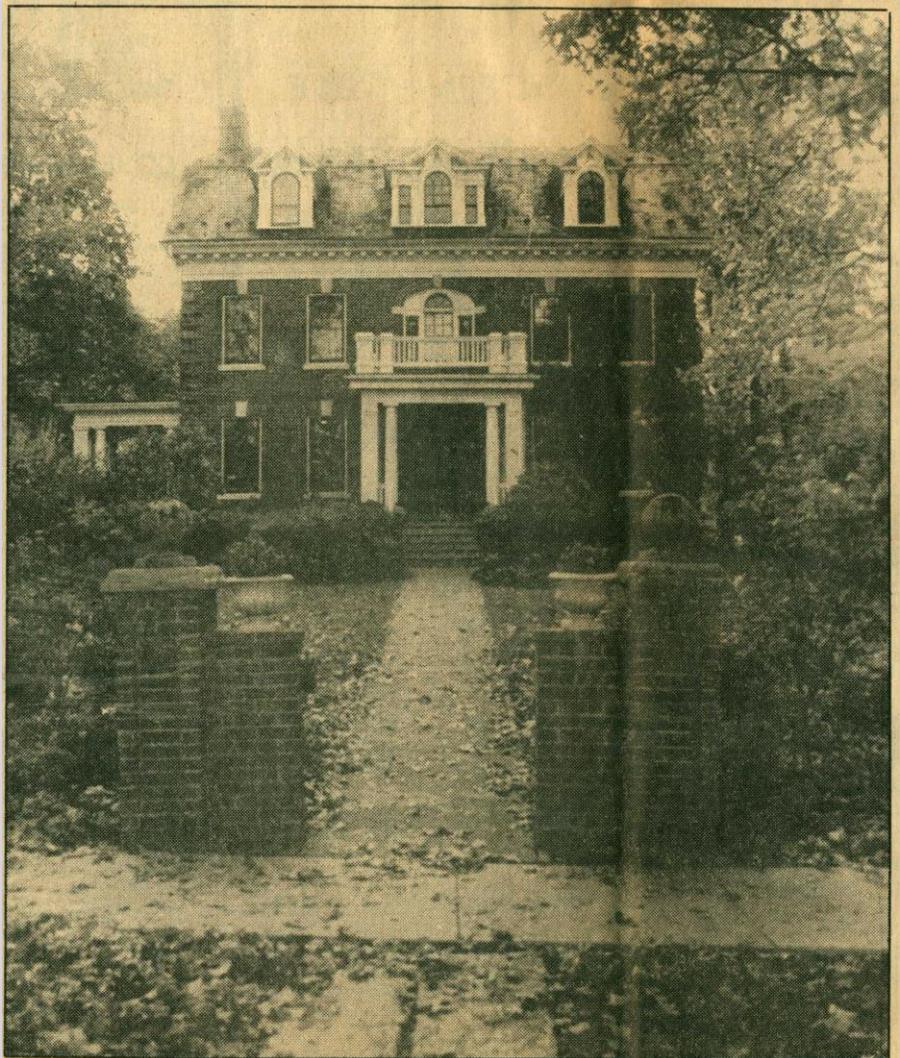
by **Kay Roher**

**Sunday News, October 21, 1984**

In 1906 workmen constructed the large house at 444 E. Main St., Anville, for nine cents an hour. When the present owner, Bruce Johnson, has the slate roof replaced it will cost more than it did to build the entire house.

Victorian, with Georgian stylings, the brick three-story home was constructed for Alfred K. Mills, a bishop in the United Methodist Church, at a cost of \$11,500. It is now listed as part of the National Historic District of Anville. Johnson has the blueprints and the expense book that reveal interesting details about the home.

Bruce and Donna Johnson are the second owners of the house which they purchased five years ago. They fell in love with its details – the gambrel roof, palladian windows, stained glass windows, original lighting fixtures and oak woodwork. . . .



*Bruce and Donna Johnson's home will be one of eight stops on the Old Anville in Autumn tour which will be held from 1:30 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, October 21. Sponsored by the Friends of Old Anville, the tour will benefit promotion of preservation in the community's historic homes.*

They have done everything they could to preserve the house, which was in good shape structurally. "It was built like a fortress," Johnson said. They searched for a long time to find a roofer who still knew how to put on a slate roof. Despite the roof's cost, "we don't want any changes from the early 20th century," the Johnsons said.

# Bookish in Annville

By Douglas L. Nyce

One may speculate that the first printed matter in Annville was likely brought by European immigrants, either from their homeland or purchased from one of the printing houses in Philadelphia such as Franklin (in English) or Sauer (in German). In eighteenth-century Pennsylvania, at the time of Annville's founding, a book-based education was rare, and would have been received at home through the help of a literate parent, or at another's home by an educated tutor.

For example, in early eighteenth-century Germantown (now part of Philadelphia, but then a country town similar to late eighteenth-century Annville), Francis Daniel Pastorius, a local jurist, graduate of the University of Altdorf in 1676, and founder of Germantown, kept an extensive library. From ca. 1703 until his death around 1720, Pastorius offered a school in his home for those children whose parents could afford a private tutor.<sup>1</sup>

The first schools that began to spring up in what is now Annville Township were also private or "individual" schools like Pastorius's. "Prior to 1800 Squire Daniel Stroh conducted an individual school located on the corner of Queen and Chestnut streets, Annville. At his death he was succeeded by his son, Daniel Stroh, Jr., who also was a Justice of the Peace. The younger Squire Stroh erected a brick building on Cherry street and removed his school thither, but discontinued it on the adoption of the public school system."<sup>2</sup>

Schools associated with religious communities soon followed, such as the Jerusalem Church School at 101 S. White Oak Street, which was open from 1804-1849 for the children of church members and for others who paid the required fee.<sup>3</sup> Secular schools opened later in the 19th century, including the Annville Academy in the 1830's and public schools through the Free Public Schools Act of 1834.<sup>4</sup> Up to the 1830's, all schooling in Annville came through private or parochial institutions. One may speculate that these schools must have had private libraries of some sort to provide the material for the curricula of the schools.

In 1866, as an outgrowth of the Annville Academy, Lebanon Valley College was founded, but had no set

apart library building or library.

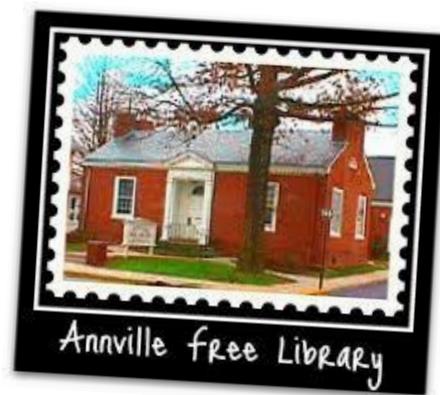
Students fended for themselves, soon banding together to

make books available to each other. The literary societies (such as Philo, Kalo and Clio), founded by students in the 1860's and 70's, all had their own libraries for their members to utilize and reference in discussions. In 1904, when the LVC Carnegie Library was built at 100 N. College Avenue, the members of the societies demonstrated extreme good-will and generosity by donating their private libraries to the college to help fill the shelves in Carnegie for all LVC students.

Thankfully, public education and public libraries eventually came to Annville. The story of the origins of the Annville Free Library began with similar generosity as that demonstrated at LVC, beginning in 1939 as a children's book club with 125 books.<sup>5</sup> In the Spring of 1940 Lillie established a shelf of 125 books in a gift shop on Main Street. Previously, in 1938, the Strubles had built their house on Ulrich Street and Lillie moved the library into their garage there, then into John McClure's basement in 1944, into the Annville Water Company Building, and then into a vacated barber shop.<sup>6</sup>

By the time of the erection of the present building on Main Street in 1950, with the support of benefactors like the Strubles and Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Kreider, Jr. who donated the building, the library had over 5,541 books and the Annville Free Library Association had been incorporated.<sup>7</sup> We are very fortunate to continue to have this resource in our community, free and open to the public, and supported by public and private funds for the benefit of all.

The FOOA Board salutes the founders, patrons and employees of the Annville Free Library. Thank you for your service to our community.



<sup>1</sup> [www.britannica.com/biography/Francis-Daniel-Pastorius](http://www.britannica.com/biography/Francis-Daniel-Pastorius)

<sup>2</sup> J. H. Warner, *Annville Township and Town*, 1910.

<sup>3</sup> Warner, *Annville Township and Town*.

<sup>4</sup> [http://hourglassfoundation.org/pdf\\_whitepapers/A\\_Look\\_at\\_Public\\_Education\\_in\\_Pennsylvania.pdf](http://hourglassfoundation.org/pdf_whitepapers/A_Look_at_Public_Education_in_Pennsylvania.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://annville.lclibs.org/discover/aboutcontact/>

<sup>6</sup> Lillie founded her first public library (eventually collecting 300 books) in 1925 in Dangued, Philippines, while she and George were teaching English there! (Edna J. Carmean, *The Struble Saga, The Valley Magazine*, Vol 3, no. 1, Spring 1986).

<sup>7</sup> Carmean, *The Struble Saga*.



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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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Mrs. Lillian Bowman  
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Karl & Gloria Brown \$  
M/M Dwayne Brown & Family  
Constance Bryant  
Robert & Thelma T. Clark  
Mr. Gerald A. Collins  
Mrs. Jeanne DeLong  
Linda L. Felty  
Dr/M Dana Felty & Family  
Mr. Carl S. Fry  
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M/M William Heeter  
Dr/M David Heeter & Family  
Jerry & Jordan Hoffsmith - Colonial  
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