

THE LANDMARK

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

Welcome Dr. James MacLaren, 19th President of Lebanon Valley College • Annville's Historic Train Station • Announcing Online FOOA Store

President's Message, by Michael Schroeder

"I'm a big believer in student service to the community," explained Dr. James MacLaren, the 19th President of Lebanon Valley College, during a wide-ranging conversation in mid-November for this issue of *The Landmark*. Months earlier, in the March 5 press release announcing his hire, he had expressed his commitment "to engage the community in strategic planning" and his pledge that "Together, we will think about how Lebanon Valley College can best serve its students and the community." Welcome words.

Unanimously elected by the LVC Board of Trustees to succeed outgoing President Lewis E. Thyne (2012-2020), Dr. MacLaren is an award-winning physicist and teacher, father of three grown daughters Caroline, Emily, and Meg, husband of his wife Gina, and doting caregiver of the family dog Luna, a.k.a. "The Tic," a pit bull mix, because, as he explained with a laugh, she's such a lunatic. The family lives at the historic Kreiderheim residence on the north side of campus.

Born in London, Dr. MacLaren comes most recently from St. Xavier University in Chicago, where he served as Provost from 2018 and initiated a number of successful programs. Before that he spent 28 years at Tulane University in New Orleans, working his way up from Professor of Physics and Chair of the Physics Department to Associate Provost and finally to Dean of Arts & Sciences and Dean of Faculty - holding the latter positions during Tulane's years-long recovery from Hurricane Katrina, which hit in 2005.

Practical, hands-on experience leading an institution's recovery from a major natural disaster seems a very good quality for a college president in this era of the global Covid-19 pandemic. Recall that in early March of this year, when Dr. MacLaren was elected as LVC president, people were only beginning to glimpse the scale of the pandemic's onslaught, and few had any sense of the magnitude of the social trauma and economic turmoil it would soon cause.



James M. MacLaren

Now, more than eight months on, colleges and universities across the country face a severe and in some cases existential crisis, with revenues down, residence and dining halls empty or nearly so, many students living at home and learning remotely, extra expenses piling up, and economic pain and hardship across the map. I imagine that becoming the president of a small liberal arts college like LVC under such circumstances would be somewhat akin to walking into a buzzsaw.

We are fortunate, then, for the leadership qualities that Dr. MacLaren has demonstrated in his first months on the job. The buzz among faculty and staff is that he's consultative, accessible, forthright, fair-minded, hardworking, and committed to the success of our students and the institution as a whole. For his part, he says he's very grateful for the warm welcome he and his family have received, and impressed with LVC's

“incredibly dedicated faculty and staff.” “We very much enjoy the lovely rural setting,” he says, adding that he and Tic, along with the rest of the family, are eagerly looking forward to getting to know Annville and the Lebanon Valley better.

Despite the myriad fiscal and other pandemic-related challenges that have confronted his presidency from his first day on the job, he’s already initiated conversations with a number of local and regional businesses and chambers of commerce on partnerships and programs on community economic development initiatives; with the superintendents of three of Lebanon County’s six public school districts regarding a mentorship program

for LVC’s education majors; with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs for LVC’s soon-to-be-inaugurated Nursing Program; and more. “I’m also looking forward to finding more service opportunities and projects for our students, here in Annville and across the Lebanon Valley and the region,” he says.

On behalf of the Friends of Old Annville, a warm welcome to Dr. MacLaren and his family. We look forward to working with you and your leadership team to help nurture and strengthen LVC’s historical embeddedness within the larger Annville community.

Those interested in learning more about Dr. MacLaren’s life and work are invited to review LVC’s *The Valley Magazine*, Summer 2020, at https://issuu.com/lebanonvalleycollege/docs/adv-sumvalley20_web/s/10880211; Liam O’Connell, “A Farewell to Provost James MacLaren,” *SXU Student Media*, St. Xavier College, <https://sxustudentmedia.com/provost-james-maclaren-farwell/>; Sanjali De Silva, “Dean MacLaren leaves Tulane after 28 years of service,” *The Tulane Hullabaloo*, 3 May 2018, and “Dr. James M. MacLaren Named 19th Lebanon Valley College President,” LVC press release, 5 March 2020, at <https://www.lvc.edu/about/leadership/19th-president/>.

Annual Dinner Recap

We are delighted to report that FOOA’s Annual Dinner this past October 3 was a grand success, despite the threat posed by Covid-19 and the ever-present possibility of lousy weather. Under the roof of the Kiwanis Pavilion next to the Annville-Cleona Community Pool off East Maple St., our 47 guests and hosts were graced by a lovely autumn evening, with dappled sunlight and a gentle breeze, temps in the 60s, delicious appetizers and entrees prepared by



Becky Briody’s Chef-on-the-Go, and each other’s very welcome company. Bountiful thanks to the Annville-Cleona Recreation Association for generously allowing us use of its facilities.

As advertised, Annville Free Library President Marty Brandt, pictured above, offered a captivating presentation on the “Past, Present, and Future” of this treasure of a local institution. Especially noteworthy was Marty’s discussion of the Library’s plans for expansion in the same location to meet the large and growing demands for its services by the local community, especially families and youth but including people of all ages and backgrounds. We are fortunate that our local public library finds itself in such capable hands during this period of growth and change.

Other highlights of the evening include FOOA Treasurer Megan Ball’s report on our organization’s sound financial footing (in sum, as of 30 Sept. 2020 our account balances were: operating account, \$66,320.27; Train Station account, \$4,790.26; Quittie Nature Park account, \$12,352.78; this year’s large increase in the operating account is due to a generous bequest from the Phyllis C. Carey Trust in the amount of \$59,523.49).

The slate of candidates presented in the July/August issue of *The Landmark* was elected to the Board of Directors for the 2021-2023 term: Michael Schroeder as President; Douglas Nyce as Vice President; Melissa Barlow as Secretary; and Tucker Hull, Joerg Meindl, and Jordan Hoffsmith as Members at Large.

On the Origins of Steam-Powered Rail Transport and the Annville Train Station (a historic building “on the move”)

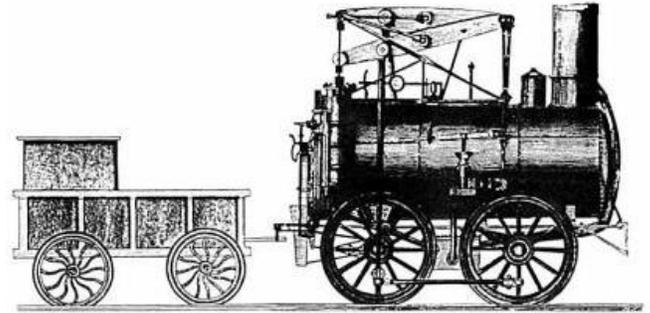
By Doug Nyce, FOOA Vice President

Steam powered locomotives on railroads, or railways as they are called in most of the English-speaking world, have operated for nearly two centuries. We in Annville are very fortunate to have a portion of that fascinating history represented in our Annville Train Station. Thanks to the foresight, planning and hard work of many volunteers, it stands today as a symbol of that history.

The first successful steam locomotive to run on rails was the *Penydarren*, invented by Richard Trevithick in Wales. It was used to transport 10 tons of iron and 70 people across nine miles of track, beginning on February 21st, 1804. Sadly, the locomotive was so heavy, it initially damaged the tracks. The first regular passenger train service in the world was Robert Stephenson’s *Invicta* locomotive. The *Invicta* carried passengers from Canterbury to the seaside town of Whitstable six miles away, beginning on May 3rd 1830.¹

In the United States, the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company operated the first steam locomotive run on rails in the USA on August 8th, 1829. The train engine, bought from English firm of Foster, Rastrick & Co., and called the *Stourbridge Lion*, carried coal from Carbondale, Pennsylvania to a canal port at Honesdale, Pennsylvania.² As with the *Penydarren*, the *Stourbridge Lion* was also too heavy for the wooden tracks upon which it was put. Wooden tracks were initially used in Great Britain and the United States, as prior to the steam locomotive there was a tradition of using much lighter wooden cars pulled by horses for transport on rails; since as early as the 1600s in Great Britain.

Annville emerges as a station on the emerging rail networks of the USA early on. “The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad was chartered in 1833 to serve the coal fields in Pottstown and deliver coal to the city of Reading. Construction was started two years later and service began in 1837, under horse-power.”³ Thanks to the innovation of the British and the copying of their technology, by the 1840s, it seems that most railroads in Pennsylvania operated by steam power. In Annville, the first steam locomotives arrived in the

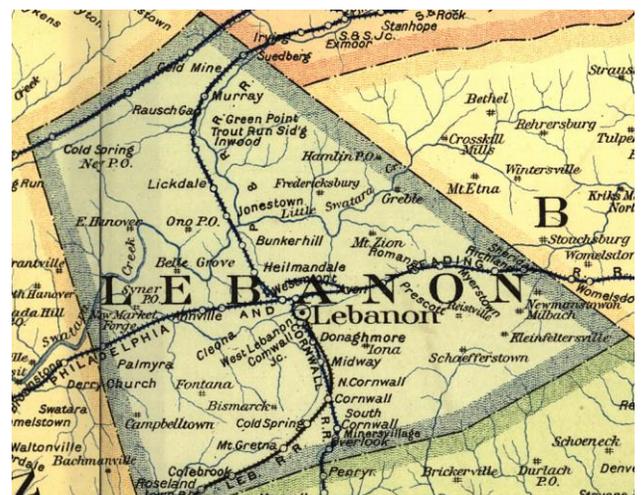


The Stourbridge Lion
(www.waynehistorypa.org/page/s-lion)

1850s courtesy of the Lebanon Valley Railroad, eventually becoming the Reading Railroad’s spur connecting Reading to Harrisburg and points west. Coal was brought in, while flour, lumber, and textiles were among the most important commodities to be transported out of the many mills of Annville.

[The remainder of the article is taken from the FOOA website, written by Owen Moe:]

The first railroad station in Annville was built in the late 1850s by the Lebanon Valley Railroad. On October 30, 1891, the Reading Railroad constructed the current Annville Train Station on Railroad Street just to the east of Lebanon Valley College. This



1895 Lebanon County Railroad Map

¹ www.theguardian.com/world/2002/jan/15/transport.uk.

² <https://explorepahistory.com/hmarker>.

³ Joseph Corso, “The Reading Railroad,” 2002; <https://jcrhs.org/reading.html>.



The restored sidecar, Annville Train Station.

station was in operation for passenger service until 1963 and for freight service until 1976. In 1976, Mr. Ron Rabena purchased the Annville Station from the Reading Railroad, dismantled it entirely, and transported it to his property in the New Cumberland area. Rabena rebuilt the station, shortening its walls by 3-4 feet, and creating the Buck Ridge Model Railroad Station to house and display his model train exhibits.

After 22 years of running Buck Ridge, Rabena sold the station to Friends of Old Annville in 1998. Led

by Blanche Schaeffer and Kathy Moe, FOOA raised the money to purchase, move, and reconstruct the Annville Train Station at 155 North Moyer Street in Annville on track-side land owned by Eagle Graphics Incorporated. FOOA, supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and by donations from local citizens, rebuilt and restored the station to its original height and original appearance.

The project was completed and the station was officially re-opened on June 17, 2000. The restored station does have a full basement that was not present in the original structure. A festive community work day on September 30, 2000 was used to lay a short section of track in front of the station, and a donated railroad side car was then placed on the track. The Kiwanis Club of Annville-Cleona rebuilt and restored the side car in May, 2008.

Friends of Old Annville uses the train station as its official headquarters, for the regular meetings of both the FOOA and the Quittie Creek Nature Park Committee, and for some of the programs sponsored by FOOA. A local model train group uses the station periodically for building and displaying model train exhibits.



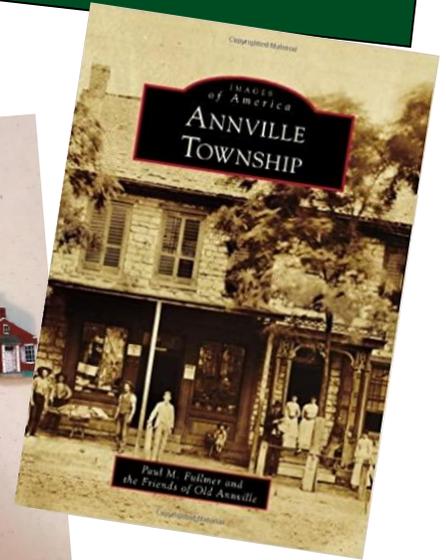
Annville Train Station after dusk following repair of exterior lights and yet another flag replacement, October 2020. Photo courtesy of Owen Moe. Sincere thanks to Eagle Graphics, Inc. for allowing FOOA to site the Train Station on its property.

The Annville Train Station is open to visitors upon request and is available for rent for dinners, parties, and meetings. If you wish to rent the station for an event, please fill out and mail or email the downloadable application form from the FOOA website www.fooa.org > Preservation > Train Station > Annville Train Station Use Contract (www.fooa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Annville-Train-Station-Use-Contract.pdf) or call 717.867.4326 for more information. If you wish to participate in the Annville Train Station Committee which manages the facility, please call 717.480.1584 or email douglasnyce@gmail.com.

Announcing FOOA's Online Store

Books & Pamphlets, Maps &
Artwork, Replicas of Annville's
Historic Houses, Friends of Old
Annville T-Shirts & More

www.fooa.org/friends-of-old-annville-online-store/



We are pleased to announce - just in time for the holidays! - the opening of the Friends of Old Annville's Online Store. As we say on our FOOA Online Store Webpage,

The goal of the Friends of Old Annville Online Store is to make available to the general public items of significance related to the history of Annville, Pennsylvania. We make these items available as part of our mission to encourage interest in the history of Annville - and, to help raise funds for the non-profit Friends of Old Annville.

When you order items, you can request to pick them up in Annville or to have them mailed to you at an additional mailing charge. You can purchase items in one of two ways:

- 1. Online purchase:** Go to the Donate page of the FOOA web site and enter the requested contact information. Enter nothing in the "Donate To" box. In the "Comments" box, type in the items you would like to purchase, and let us know in that comments box if you'd like to pick up the items in Annville or have them mailed to you. In the "Donation Amount" box, enter the total cost of the items you are purchasing (do not enter a dollar sign, but do include two decimal places). If you choose to have the items mailed to you, we will get back to you with the additional cost. If you choose to pick the items up, we will contact you to arrange a pick-up time and location. **NOTE:** for online purchases you can pay via credit card through PayPal or directly via PayPal (see notes on Donation page).
- 2. Order via email:** Either call Kathy Moe (717.867.4326) to order, or send her an email (kathleenmoe@verizon.net) listing the items you wish to purchase and indicating whether you want to pick them up or have them mailed to you. Kathy will respond to make the necessary arrangements.

The items for sale, along with information about them, can be viewed using the links on the page. All prices already include PA State Sales Tax.



Box 99, Annville, PA 17003

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
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17042
Permit No. 184

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please note that your MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE can be found in the line above your name and address on 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 ❖

RENEWALS

M/M Randall Aungst
Virginia T. Bowman
Pat Buchmoyer
William & Carol Christ ❖
Robert & Thelma Clark
Mary Duffy ★
Marian Trygve Struble Freed
Carl B. Funk
M/M Dennis George

Robert Horlacher
Tony & Dawn Kearney
Carole Kline
Elma Jean Kreider
M/M Conrad "Mike" Liles
Gladys Martin
David & Sally McKeever
Grace I. Miller
M/M Carlin R. Rhine

Lee & Sally Smedley / Smedley
Consulting §
Eugene Turasky
Bob & Barb Wilson

NEW MEMBERS

James Martin MacLaren ★
Gerhard Mullican