



THE LANDMARK

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

Annual Dinner with Mike Emery of Cornwall Iron Furnace • By-Laws Revision & Board Changes • Historic Building Award 2022

President's Message, by Michael Schroeder

The Smithsonian Institution's Robert Vogel described the Cornwall Furnace as "a site of Transcendent Significance" to capture the profound historical importance of the place. Cornwall Iron Furnace rightfully boasts that it is "the only one of America's hundreds of 19th century charcoal fueled blast furnaces to survive fully intact." I've taken LVC students on field trips there at least half a dozen times, and every time I learn something new and am impressed by the excellent condition of the site and the professionalism and expertise of its staff and volunteers.

Mr. Vogel continued: "With the exception of a mere handful of similar preservations in Sweden and Germany — and possibly a few in eastern Europe — I doubt that elsewhere in the world is there a 19th century iron furnace complex with the degree of historical integrity to be found at Cornwall."

That's why we're delighted that Cornwall Iron Furnace Site Administrator Mike Emery will serve as our featured speaker at our Annual Dinner this year – the first time we'll be holding our yearly gathering indoors since pre-pandemic times.

Mike brings with him a wealth of skills and experience in public history, having worked at a string of notable PA historic sites before becoming Site Administrator at Cornwall Iron Furnace four years ago.

"A lot of people think they know all about the history of Cornwall Iron Furnace," remarked Emery about his upcoming talk at FOOA's Annual Dinner on Saturday, November 12.



Mike Emery

"So it's worth noting that a ton of new scholarship has been coming out in recent years showing that history is far more complex than people realize."

After graduating from Penn State University, Mike worked as a guide supervisor at the Daniel Boone Homestead in Berks County, followed by five years at the Conrad Weiser Homestead (also in Berks County) and 13 years at the Landis Valley Museum in Lancaster County before coming to Cornwall Iron Furnace in 2018.

All this and more got me thinking about the many diverse local historical societies right here in Lebanon County, their similarities and differences, and how FOOA would be well served by connecting with them and engaging in collaborative initiatives whenever possible and desirable – like developing a shared schedule of events, for example, or a common brochure or flier featuring our names, logos, and contact information.

Cornwall Iron Furnace, for instance, is owned and administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which pays Mike's salary along with one other full-time state employee, as well as utilities, maintenance, and other essentials. Its associated non-profit 501(c)3 organization is Friends of Cornwall Iron Furnace (CIFA, Inc.) – a very different model than FOOA, which is wholly independent, has no museum (yet), and receives no regular state funding.

Some Lebanon County historical societies are incorporated, others are not. Some get state funding and have physical facilities, others do not. Some were founded decades ago, others are just getting off the ground. Each is unique, with its own idiosyncrasies, but all are pursuing broadly similar missions. And they – we – are thick on the ground.

In addition to FOOA and Cornwall Iron Furnace, we have the Lebanon County Historical Society; the Mount Gretna Historical Society; Historic Schaefferstown; Fort Indiantown Gap Military Museum; Friends of Governor Dick; the North Annville History Group; the South Londonderry Township Area Historical Society; and doubtless others I'm unaware of. And that's just Lebanon County.

It's a dynamic scene, with new initiatives cropping up all the time. Historic Schaefferstown, for instance, recently proposed the creation of the Schaefferstown Historic District, to be considered by the PA State Review Board at its upcoming meeting of October 12, for nomination to the National Register of Historic

Places. If the district is approved, Schaefferstown will boast Lebanon County's second federally-recognized historic district after Annville's.

I also recently learned that Visit Lebanon Valley is developing an African American Heritage Trail driving tour in collaboration with St. John AME Church, the Lebanon County Historical Society, the Lebanon County NAACP, and other community organizations and leaders.

The FOOA Board is in broad and strong agreement that cultivating collaborative relationships with these and other local historical societies represents a fruitful path forward – another reason I eagerly look forward to Mike Emery's presentation.

I also want to report two recent changes to the Board of Directors. Jill Palanzo and her husband David, who have contributed in myriad ways to FOOA over the past decade and more, have sold their historic house on East Main St. and are moving to the Allentown area to be closer to family. We will have more to say in a future issue, but for now I want to say, on behalf of the entire FOOA Board, a big fat loud booming heartfelt Thank You for your many years and many ways of service. Also, Craig Robinson has decided to step down from the FOOA Board. We thank Craig for his many contributions during his nearly one year of service.

Finally, congratulations to the Rotunda brothers for their receipt of the Friends of Old Annville's Historic Building Award for 2022 for all their excellent work rehabbing Annville's premier public house at 245 West Main St. We look forward to presenting the award to the Rotunda brothers at our Annual Dinner.

BALLOT FOR ELECTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FRIENDS OF OLD ANNVILLE, INC. AT THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING ON SATURDAY, November 12, 2022

President.....Michael Schroeder (2023, 2024)

Vice President.....Douglas Nyce (2023, 2024)

Treasurer.....Matt Woolson (2023, 2024)

Secretary.....Joerg Meindl (2023, 2024)

Annual Dinner Meeting

Friends of Old Annville

Saturday, Nov. 12, 6-8 p.m.

Annville American Legion 35 S. Manheim St, Annville

Featured Presentation

"The Hidden History of Cornwall Iron Furnace"

Mike Emery

Also, Annual Business Meeting and other fun activities you won't want to miss!

Appetizers & Wine & Buffet Dinner & Dessert & Coffee by Rebecca Briody's Chef on the Go. Dinner served at 6 o'clock.

Cost: \$30 per person

To register and pay online, please visit our website (www.fooa.org) and follow the links:
from our Homepage > Events > Annual Dinner 2022.



Friends of Old Annville Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Number Attending _____ @ \$30/person
(payable to "FOOA")

Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Mail this form and payment to Michael Schroeder, 189 School House Lane, Annville, PA 17003.

Deadline for reservations: Friday, November 4, 2022

The FOOA Board of Directors voted on July 14 to revise our By-Laws. These proposed revisions will not be officially adopted until our members vote on them at our Annual Dinner in November. Members are invited to review these revisions and offer comments before then. Please visit <https://www.fooa.org/about-us/by-laws/revision-of-by-laws> to review the changes.

Annville Free Library: Writing the Next Chapter

By Marty Brandt, President, Annville Free Library

The bids for the Addition construction were opened on August 2nd and after careful analysis, we selected Speedwell Construction from Manheim as the contractor to build the 3,400 sq. ft. Addition with connections to the existing library and the duplex. The contract is signed, builders' insurance is ready, and Speedwell is working on material lists, delivery, permitting, scheduling, and subcontracts. They will be onsite starting excavation the end of September! What a journey to finally get to this point. Our volunteers have moved books and bookcases, relocated Rose's office, emptied closets in the basement, and that is just in the existing library. We also did lots of work in the duplex to get it ready for the start of construction. As you walk or drive by, notice that the duplex front porch is nearly finished, just our luck that the drought ended when we started painting! Barring unforeseen delays, we anticipate occupancy and a grand opening September 2023. The Library will be open for business during the construction as we make every effort to minimize interruptions in service. We have enough money to build the Addition thanks in part to the Keystone Grant from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Department of Education, with funds provided from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund and donations from community families, businesses, foundations and organizations.

But our progress has come with a new challenge: increases in labor and construction costs since estimates earlier in the spring. The bids for the Addition were much higher than the estimates and the bids to adapt the duplex into the community room and renovations in the existing library were slightly lower, but not near enough to offset the increases. Now we have an unexpected and required elevator upgrade at a cost of \$80,000. We will make up this shortfall by finding cost savings during construction, applying for more grants, continuing to raise donations, and delaying parts of the project until we have raised the necessary funds. To help out, we are hosting at the Allen Theater a Harry Potter Interactive Movie Experience on October 30 to raise money for the project. Fun for all ages!

Sunday, October 30, 12:30 - 5:00 pm at the Allen Theater
HARRY POTTER & THE SORCERER'S STONE
INTERACTIVE MOVIE EXPERIENCE

Come in Costume!

Small popcorn & drink, Harry Potter Photo Booth, Trivia & Prizes,
& Goody Bag with Props for the Movie

Price: \$20.00

Tickets on sale at the library or on Eventbrite



Annville Free Library
Writing the next chapter.



Help us write
The next chapter!

Not just a building for books, but a place for people.

www.writingthenextchapter.org

ONWARD AND UPWARD AND OUTWARD

Part Five of "My Little World"

Pat Freeland

Cleaned up and a few inches taller, I left St. Dismal Elementary School and went to the big gray stone building on White Oak Street where I had Mrs. Oakey Light and Miss Grace Berry for third and fourth grades respectively.

I was chronically unable to get away with anything. For example, one day walking along Maple Street a sore in my mouth burst and the taste of whatever was in it was awful and I spat it out. A lady across the street yelled at me for spitting and I compounded the felony by shouting back at her "shut up" which in my mother's ears was tantamount to taking the name of the Deity in vain and using any of a sample of four letter words at the same time. With my left ear firmly in the possession of my mother's right hand, we marched across Maple Street whereupon I humbly asked the woman's pardon. I'd have preferred to ask her what she would do in similar circumstances.

We were all issued, among other vital school necessities, soap erasers. They weren't supposed to erase soap, they were made of soap (I think, why else the name?). My classmates used to rub them across their desks thus leaving a smudgy trail. I decided to try it. A voice just behind me said "that's not necessary." Mrs. Light just happened to be there. So generally I was a good kid, it was just better than being marched around Annville apologizing to old ladies.

In the fourth grade we practiced for a Christmas pageant to be held in the school gym. I was part of a group of kids dressed as elves. We sat on the stage cross-legged with a toy of some sort on which we rhythmically tapped a small wooden hammer. (How Santa's elves managed to make toys by hammering on things never made sense to me, but hey, I was only a kid.) The stars of the show were sixth graders. I don't know if you agree, but to me, a scrawny fourth grader, sixth graders were adults, ready to marry and drive cars and buy insurance. Mrs. Santa had a beautiful voice with vibrato and everything. I forgot all about Judy and unsuccessfully kept trying to get Mrs. S's attention by being the best hammering elf on the stage.

Finally the night of the great pageant arrived, my parents were in the bleachers, I hammered and Mrs. Santa sang. Then it was over. The grief I felt was overwhelming and that night I cried myself to sleep. After that, when we fourth graders went out the back door for recess, I noticed the sixth graders were just going in a door at the other end of the building. Daily I would run out our door and down along the building to get a glimpse and perhaps a chance to show off to Mrs. S. It never happened. She passed into history never to have experienced...me.

When we weren't in school, my neighbor Bobby and I would wander around the LVC campus. Of special interest to us was a dorm down Sheridan Avenue from my grandmother's house. What was interesting to us was that there was a kitchen in the basement.

We could peek in the window and watch impossibly sweaty people in toques working in a steam bath. There was a pipe through a window pane that constantly vented steam that smelled of food. Specifically, and probably distressing to the LVC students, it always smelled like sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and boiled pork. Maybe WWII leftovers?

One winter day my father took my brother and me up to the graveyard just off White Oak Street to go sledding. It was a long hill and fabulous for sledding. It was slightly terraced so that as you left a terrace you would be briefly airborne. We had a great time. A bunch of older boys, teens, were there also and kept to themselves until.... At the bottom of the hill is a steep bank and one of the boys decided to start at the top of the graveyard and continue airborne over the edge and down the bank. He disappeared and a few seconds later appeared at the top of the bank crying, with blood running down his face and onto his clothes. My father packed us all in the car, bloody kid too, dropped my brother and me off and went to the hospital. The kid was fine. His father stopped by to thank my father and offer him \$50. My father refused the offer saying that he expected the man would do the same for us if we were injured.





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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 \$ 10.00 Family (2+ persons) \$ 20.00 Business \$ 25.00 Friend of FOOA \$ 50.00 ★
Benefactor \$ 100.00 § Founder \$ 250 ❖

Annville's Quittie Creek Nature Park is a gorgeous place to behold nature's beauty. What better way to enjoy the Park all year long than through a calendar that hangs on our walls and greets us every day! It also makes the perfect holiday gift for family and friends.

Annville resident and amateur photographer Jim Walker has generously shared some of his best Quittie photos for this special 2023 Quittie Nature Park Calendar.

The 2023 calendar focuses entirely on the various kinds of birds and other animals that make their homes within the Quittie Creek Nature Park area.

The calendars will be available only via prepaid orders and orders are due by Nov. 18. No extra copies will be printed.

The cost is \$25, and all profits will directly benefit the Quittie Creek Nature Park. To order, visit <https://www.fooa.org/fooa-store/quittie-park-2023-calendar>

