

Lecture by Jared and Michael Blouch, Cornwall Iron Furnace

## Education in Lebanon County: 1700's to Present

Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

Please join the Cornwall Iron Furnace Associates on Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM for a virtual lecture: "Education in Lebanon County - 1700's to Present" by Jared Blouch with additional commentary by Michael Blouch. Jared's presentation will focus on the evolution of Lebanon's schools beginning in the mid-1700's through today's district-managed public campuses. More importantly, he will feature the transition from one-room schoolhouses and private parochial schools to the gender-separated public primary normals, which led to today's large secondary buildings. The talk also features commentary from his father Michael, another Lebanon Valley native with insight into old school buildings that once existed. Together, their research uncovered that Lebanon County was home to over 100 schools, condensing and evolving into the districts that we know today. From Annville to Cornwall, throughout Lebanon City, beyond Myerstown and Palmyra – Lebanon evolved into an all-inclusive educational experience along the main industrial corridor from Philadelphia to Harrisburg.

His research reveals events about construction, acquisition, abandonment, and demolition of structures due to lack of funds, acts of nature and re-purposing. While Jared shows an interest in the evolution of schools, his expertise is not in education. His on-going passion to document and share information, pictures and details help reveal and preserve key information. Examining maps, newspapers, stories, and county records helped this father and son team to compile what may be the most detailed summary of buildings, locations and events surrounding change in the community. Join us for a captivating timeline, rare pictures and interesting facts concerning education throughout Lebanon County!

Mike Emery (CIF Administrator) will moderate a brief discussion at the end of the presentation.

This is an online lecture will utilize the Zoom platform.

Limited space available, registration required at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3iQrU-rdTMCzi7HkhizpZA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3iQrU-rdTMCzi7HkhizpZA)

Presentation is offered at no cost to attendees. Donations appreciated.

About the speakers:

Jared Blouch was born and raised in Cornwall Borough and is a graduate of Cedar Crest High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science Engineering degree in Information Technology from Penn State University. After graduating from Penn State, he devoted his 21-year professional career as an employee of locally-owned businesses, ultimately serving numerous Fortune 500 companies. He progressed to an executive level business owner, becoming known for commercial real-estate investments and holding company founding. He enjoys investing his time with other professionals to grow and sustain their companies' services and data organization processes. Outside of the corporate world – Jared shares the love of history this region has and continues to offer. His parents, grandparents and teachers are credited with encouraging him to develop an interest and appreciate history from an early age. His interests include collecting books, photos and maps since the age of 12. He teamed up with his father on a life-long journey to address many unanswered questions about locations of forgotten or lost structures in the region. His goals are to preserve facts, media and corresponding “metadata” in one place.

Michael Blouch is also a Penn State Engineering alumni and shares the passion for historic research and fact-finding missions along with his son. He was born and raised in Lebanon county in the early 1950's, attended many of the schools you will see in tonight's presentation and graduated from Lebanon High School. Michael's father, a Bethlehem Steel employee, and mother, a retired cafeteria worker at Lebanon High, link his roots deeply in higher education and local industry. After college, he focused the next 46 years of his professional career working in virtually every major industry as an independent management consultant and engineer. He climbed the ladder from blue collar worker to an executive manager and ultimately a business owner. He visited over 1,000 companies and has overseen the design, development and implementation of many large-scale technically advanced automation projects in world-class manufacturing, warehousing and distribution facilities. He held executive managerial positions in Fortune 10 companies and successfully completed projects in 10 foreign countries. Neither Michael nor his son reside in the area today.