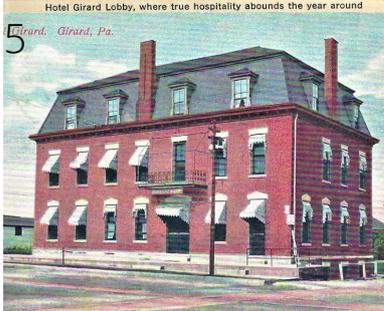
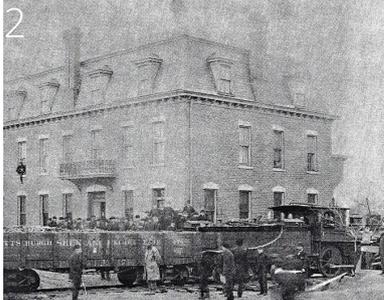


ALBION AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER



Hello, History Lovers! As many of you are aware, we've had a lot of changes both large and small going on here at our little library, and my history research has had to take a bit of a backseat to all the other more pressing matters! As I'm sure most of you know, the Girard Hotel was recently razed due to structural issues too dangerous to allow for repair or occupation. While I'm sure many are a little sad to see the historic structure leave, safety had to be considered, and we bid the once beautiful and proud building a fond and nostalgic farewell. The brick building we all know was the second building to be erected on the lot and used as a hotel for travelers to the area. The first "Hotel Girard" was built in 1836 by a Hiram Drury. It was a two story structure, and so far I have not come across any photos of that building. In 1845 the owner was Leffert Hart, and he added a third floor, which was used as the first dance hall in Girard Township. About 1873 Pete Nellis purchased the building, which he renamed "Avenue House". That structure was destroyed by fire in 1879, and the familiar brick building we all know was built as a replacement; although as you can see, the building once had a third floor. A fire in the 1940s destroyed the third story, and from that time on the building remained two stories high. The 1st photo is of a group of Finnish workers laying the tracks for the Pittsburgh, Shenango, and Lake Erie Railroad in 1888. As you can spot, there was once a harness shop next door. The 2nd picture was taken sometime between 1888 and 1900, because the railroad was renamed the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad in 1900. Photo 3 is a postcard dated 1918, from a photo taken by E. H. Tinklepaugh & Co. of Girard, PA, and it names Frank Wells as the current proprietor. Photo 4 is a of the hotel interior, in a sitting room for guests to receive visitors or spend a pleasant afternoon or evening. The room through the archway contains small tables, probably used for meals or card games, a popular pastime from those days. Picture 5 is a colorized drawing of the Hotel Girard, and is undated, though it appears to be roughly the same era; many of the features remain the same in all the pictures. The final 9 photos are the Girard Hotel as it was being demolished. I'm sure I wasn't alone in my sadness at seeing the building go, but it would have been worse, I think, to see it continue to fall apart without being fixed or used. Until next time, folks, who has any stories they can share about going inside the Hotel while it was still in use?





We are so pleased to announce that the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has awarded a grant in the amount of \$48,000 to Albion Borough! The grant has been awarded for the purpose of obtaining an architectural plan detailing necessary repairs and improvements to the Albion Area Public Library Building, and for a portion of the cost of replacing the concrete wheelchair ramp at the rear of the Library.

Erie Community Foundation
"Helping Today" Grant awarded to
Albion Area Public Library

The Library applied for a grant from the Erie Community Foundation in the amount of \$18,000, and we are very excited to announce that the application was successful! This grant will help the borough with the project costs for the badly needed repairs to the concrete wheelchair ramp located at the Library's rear entrance. The project should be completed by the end of 2022.

Thanks to all the little ghouls and goblins who visited the Library for Trick or Treat! We loved seeing you!!

Children's Library Closed Due to Flood Damage

Sadly, our Children's Library suffered a bit of a watery mishap! For those of you who may not have heard, due to a drain pipe which was removed from Pearl Street in error, our wonderful Children's Library in the basement got a little soggy! Luckily, we were open at the time of the flooding, and a mother was downstairs in the Children's Library with her kids, so the alarm was raised the moment the water began to gush into the Library under the door. Thanks to the quick thinking of our resourceful Library Director Erin, and the assistance of our patrons and Assistant Librarian Taylor, the flooding was slowed greatly by the ingenious use of plastic tablecloths and bags of play sand on hand for children's crafts. One patron who pulled in and saw what was happening even jumped in and emptied a plastic tote he had in his vehicle to try to help bail out some of the water collecting at the base of our wheelchair entrance! A huge thank you to the patrons who immediately sprang to help save our children's book collection!! It just shows what a wonderful community we have here in our little town! Because of the swift action taken to stem the water, we didn't lose a single book, toy, or stick of furniture due to the water! The only damage that couldn't be helped was the water damage to the carpet, entrance door, and sloped ramp from the door down into the Children's Library. The water damage means that our Children's Library has had to remain closed to the public until the carpet, door, and ramp can be replaced. The supplies have been ordered, and the repairs will be carried out as soon as possible. During the carpet replacement, the Library will have to be closed completely for one week in order to empty the Children's Library of as much of the book collection and furniture as possible for the workers to lay the new carpet. We hope to have everything back to normal by mid-November, and plan to have a Grand Reopening once the repairs are complete!

SOLAR POWERED BUILDING SETS LIBRARY RAFFLE

BEGINS August 28, 2021, DRAWING October 30, 2021

#1 / **13 in 1** **EDUCATIONAL KIT SOLAR ROBOT**

#2

#3

Benefits The Friends of the Albion Area Public Library
1 ticket for \$1.00 or 3 tickets for \$2.00 Name & Phone Number
Do Not Need to Be Present to Win.

Tickets will be drawn on October 30th and the winner will be announced.