

DANVILLE - HOMETOWN

Good day everyone...it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

So much has been written about big cities; so little about small towns. and every town, no matter its size should have its historian to put down for posterity, its history, its feel, its contribution. I don't mean the fictionalized Main Streets of the midwest; but the true story of the accomplishments of people who come from real home towns. Danville, Pennsylvania--county seat of Montour County--has such a recent historian and it were nice if other towns had. He's Arthur Toye Foulke, and he has put Danville into 312 pages--what Lorant did for Pittsburgh and Burt for Philadelphia, Donahoo for Harrisburg. His Danville is located in lush, river-bottom country above Sunbury and south of Bloomsburg; has 7000 people, which is not as many as it had 100 years ago. At that time it was the center of a large iron trade in Pennsylvania. Today its industry is diversified and its surrounding country looks horsey, like the lush lands of Maryland. It's pleasant--that's the way to describe Danville country; it's quiet, it's busy; it has its small town Saturday night when it becomes the fun metropolis for the surrounding area. It has one of the finest hospitals in the United States in its generously endowed Geisinger Medical Center, the original gift of the widow of one of the iron millionaires. When Danville had a horrible typhoid epidemic, Mrs. Abigail Geisinger thought something should be done about it and did so. Since my time in Central Pennsylvania, every Governor and many people of the state and the world have had their

checkups at Geisinger. Danville is the sort of place which provides small town greatness in religion. I have known Bishops and ministers who are Danville natives; in industry one can name Christopher L. Sholes--he's the fellow from Danville who invented the first practical typewriter in 1868, despite the fact that history books mention Remington and Iliad, New York in 1873. Sholes sold his patent to Remington and made \$12,000 on it, or Danville might have been eventually the typewriter capitol of the world...Carl Snavely, well remembered as one of the great football coaches of all time, was a native...James Scarlet, the famous Pennsylvania lawyer of the early part of the century was Danville raised. He topped off a career with the 1907 prosecution of the Pennsylvania Capitol Graft Scandal. Then there was Jake Coxey, who led Coxey's army into history in one of the famous protest marches. Born in nearby Selinsgrove, which still boasts that historical marker, Coxey was educated at Danville and set the mahoffs of the country on their heels before the turn of the century by calling for a guaranteed work program, and government is still considering it. Author Foulke's notes include the entire scope of Danville's history, naming the names of everything and everybody and filling the pages with stories that will make you want to visit Danville and towns like it. They're pleasant there along the rivers; the views from their hills are breathtaking; their people never stop smiling. And towns that size make up most of the population of Pennsylvania, which is why it's such a nice place.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.