



Friends of  
**The Furness Railroad District**

c/o Tevebaugh Associates  
Two Mill Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19806  
302-984-1400    [www.friendsoffurness.org](http://www.friendsoffurness.org)

## Report to Members

Fall 2013

The Friends of the Furness Railroad District is now six years old and continues to create projects and provide information on the importance of railroads in Wilmington's history. We interact with school children, visitors to the city, local residents and the corporate community. The story FFRD tells is rich and never-ending. We appreciate your ongoing interest and support of our mission.

In Honor of the Wilmington Train Station's Centennial Celebration  
The Friends of The Furness Railroad District  
and Delaware Historical Society Present

### Frank Furness: Railroad Architect

A Lecture By Michael J. Lewis, Williams College

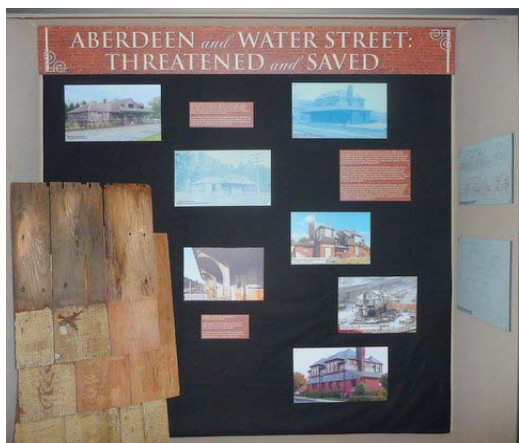


In the fall of 2012, several events were held throughout the region in commemoration of the centennial of the death of architect Frank Furness (1839 – 1912). The celebration was initiated by Furness scholars Michael J. Lewis and Hyman Myers, several aficionados from Philadelphia, and FFRD. The well-attended programs included a Pennsylvania State Historic Marker unveiling at Furness' birthplace, on Pine Street in Philadelphia, which concluded with a men's chorus singing a rousing Civil War cavalry song written by Furness that was discovered in the Library of Congress by Furness scholar Michael J. Lewis. There were several lectures and museum exhibits, as well as open houses at some of Furness' more notable buildings, such as the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts on Broad Street in Philadelphia.

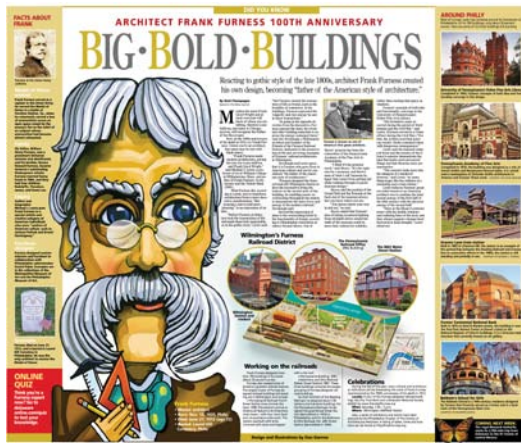
The Friends of the Furness Railroad District participated by joining forces with the Delaware Historical Society to present an exhibition of artifacts from the Furness-designed Baltimore & Ohio Station in Aberdeen, Maryland, and Wilmington's B&O Water Street Station.

We also conducted a Saturday afternoon walking tour of the Furness Railroad District, followed by a tour up Market Street and a reception at the Delaware Historical Society to view the exhibit. Participants on the tour included visiting authors and scholars Hyman Myers (co-author of *The Architecture of Frank Furness*), Michael Lewis and Jeffrey Cohen (co-authors of *Frank Furness: The Complete Works, Revised Edition*), and the great-great-grandniece of Frank Furness. Their lively commentary and insights provided a rich layer of additional information for the group.

In March 2012, FFRD officers and Board members participated in Amtrak's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit and Open House at the Wilmington Station, now known as Amtrak's Joseph R. Biden Jr. Railroad Station. Stationmaster Ron Edwards informs that visitors continue to tell him how much they enjoy the information provided by our Wilmington's Railroad Heritage exhibit that we unveiled as part of the Station rededication in March 2011.



Delaware Historical Society exhibit:  
Aberdeen and Water Street Threatened and Saved



*The News Journal, Did You Know:  
Architect Frank Furness 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Later this year, FFRD will complete a Student Activity Book, initially designed in collaboration with art students from Archmere Academy. This collaboration was reported on in *The News Journal* "Crossroads" article. We also worked with *The News Journal* on a *Did You Know* two-page feature article on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Frank Furness. FFRD reprinted our first *Did You Know*, "The Wilmington Passenger Station 1907 – 2007 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" in *The Pennsylvania News* (the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society's publication).

Thanks to a donation from North East Contractors, Inc., we were able to create a collectible cut-out of the B&O Water Street Station, restored by ING Direct, now Capital One. Both this and our Wilmington Station collectible cut-out are available for purchase from FFRD. The sales of these items, along with greeting cards, note cards and other ephemera, continue to provide an income source for FFRD activities.



B&O Water Street Station collectible



Permanent exhibit at the Wilmington Station

On September 16, 2013, in collaboration with Winterthur, Hagley and the Delaware Historical Society, we presented author Anthony Robins speaking on his recent book, *Grand Central Terminal: 100 Years of A New York Landmark*. Approximately 275 people attended the free illustrated lecture hosted in Winterthur's Copeland Auditorium. Activities such as this, as well as the ongoing maintenance of our permanent exhibit at the Biden Station would not be possible without support from you, the members of the Friends of the Furness Railroad District.

Future projects include a permanent exhibit on the B&O in Wilmington, currently being designed with the assistance of the Delaware Historical Society, to be installed in the Capital One Water Street Station building; a travelling exhibit based on the Aberdeen/Water Street Station exhibit that we plan to make available to libraries, schools, historical societies, and museums; future lectures on Wilmington's architectural and railroad heritage; and continued outreach to schools.

To increase community awareness of the cultural, educational, and historical value of the train station vicinity, including its architectural significance and importance as a major gateway into the City of Wilmington. In addition, FFRD will advocate for and influence improvements to the Wilmington train station vicinity. The Furness Railroad District is comprised of the 1887 Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Water Street Station, the 1905 Pennsylvania Railroad Office Building, and the 1907-08 Pennsylvania Railroad Wilmington Station, and the 1902-08 Wilmington Rail Viaduct.

*For the first time since our founding*, FFRD is reaching out to our members for support by asking you to make a tax-deductible donation so we can continue this mission. Please make your check payable to FFRD and send it to us c/o Tevebaugh Associates, Two Mill Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19806.

For additional information please visit our website at [www.friendsoffurness.org](http://www.friendsoffurness.org), or contact FFRD with any questions or comments by calling 302-984-1400 or emailing us at [info@ friendsoffurness.org](mailto:info@friendsoffurness.org).

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Tevebaugh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

James A. Tevebaugh, AIA  
President