
LIMERICK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Monthly meetings will resume when Pennsylvania regulations allow them

Limerick Township Historical Society Officers

President: Martin Witte

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Treasurer: Robert Moses

Secretary: John Perry

Historian: Doris Callow

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Mary Ann Dailey

The Mission of LTHS is to:

1. Preserve the history, lore and historical heritage of Limerick Township
2. Create an interest in Township history and heritage, especially among Township youth.
3. Restore buildings and areas within the Township to original character,
4. Provide a repository for Township memorabilia, and
5. Advise persons, firms, or entities seeking assistance on restoration projects.



A few Witte Comments...

Let me begin by apologizing for a mistake in our winter 2020 newsletter. Within that issue was a photo of the Steinmetz school with a comment that I added, as follows: "Note: This should probably be grandfather." Unfortunately, my comment was incorrect! I should have believed the markings on the back of the photo, just like Mary Ann Dailey described in her article about preserving and marking old photos. Later in this newsletter is an article about the Wade Family of Limerick. Based on notes found on the back of an old photo shared by Shirley (Reifsnnyder) Sosa and research extracted from our Society files, I was able to create a short Wade Family history that I hope you enjoy reading.

Next, the Society needs to think ahead and consider plans for 2026, the 300th anniversary of Limerick Township. Forward planning sometimes requires a 'look back' at previous celebrations. In 1976, Limerick had a large

celebration for the USA Bicentennial, which was also the 250th anniversary of the official establishment of Limerick Township. Another landmark celebration occurred in 2001, which was the 275th anniversary of the Township. Therefore, we need to begin planning now for 2026. Initial plans include converting VCR tape photos and slides from previous celebrations into digital format for computer display.

Finally, another upcoming event is the 100th Anniversary of the Limerick Fire Company, which will be celebrated later this year.

Martin Witte, LTHS President

Linfield School Memories

by Betty Lou (McMann) Jacob

Currently, Betty Lou Jacob lives in Ohio, but she and her family lived in Linfield for many years. In the Winter 2019 newsletter, the history of the McMann farm in Linfield was featured. Here are her memories of Linfield Grade School and the Village of Linfield....

Doris Callow

Growing up in Linfield

Several years ago there was a song that, I think, was called, "If They Asked Me I Could Write A Book." Well, I could probably do just that about growing up in Linfield, but I won't. I'll just try to touch on the highlights that I remember.

Most of my memories revolve around school and Linfield Reformed Church.

The school memories are mostly of the games we played at morning and afternoon recess, and for a while at lunch time. There was hopscotch, jumps rope, baseball and "evie, ivy, over" and girls and boys chasing each other around the building!

I also remember morning openings when we had Bible readings, singing and the Lord's Prayer.

Something we always had fun doing was having fire drills. If you were upstairs in the 5th to 8th grade you got to slide down the big metal tube on the back of the building.

Since it was the time of World War II, we also had air-raid drills where we had to all go to the basement. I never could figure that one out as to getting buried in the basement if the school did get bombed!!

There were also air raid drills at home, too. They were mostly at night and you had to go to a room with the least windows and pull down "blackout" curtains so if enemy bombers came it would be all dark. There would be men who walked around the town to look for light showing and if they saw any they knocked on the door to let you know. My father was one of those men.

One really crazy thing we did at school was toast our sandwiches on a wire holder over the hot coals in the furnace in the basement. Can you imagine the uproar of the authorities about that in this day and age!?!

Actually we did get an education that served us well.

When we finished 8th grade you could choose to go to Pottstown or Royersford for the rest of your school years. I decided on Pottstown and I'm glad I did as I met my husband Arthur Jacob and we'll be married 69 years in November (2020).

My other special and very fond memories are of Linfield Reformed Church and taking part in choir, Christian Endeavor, and Bible School, all of which carried over to the rest of my life.

Some other things I remember - sledding down Church Road in the winter, swimming in Pidgeon Creek in Parkerford in the summer (just down stream from cows)!

During the war we would see trains filled with soldiers going off to war from the railroad bridge by our yard.

A summer pastime in the evening would be to play kick-the-can and hide and seek all over the neighborhood, and as teenagers walking with our girlfriends past the boys sitting on Brownback's wall and having them make comments to us.

We shopped at "Wellsies" store by the firehouse and went to the post office which was in Stepp's house across the road from Brownback's.

All of these memories are fun to think about and seem like only yesterday.

I'm glad my parents left the farm and moved "in town" because Linfield was a GREAT place to grow up

Museum/Library Donations

We offer a special 'thank you' to each of our donors...

Ruth Borneman	Civil War Army Record by David Wise and obituary. Shalkop family article.
Doris Callow	<i>Pennsylvania Folklife Magazine, Spring 1990 Issue.</i> This issue contains an article about Captain Washing Hood, 500th graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, in 1827. The author of this article was Charles Steitz.
Josephine Kurtas	Family records and certificate of citizenship for Frank Chruscz and Jazefa Chruscz. Cash ledgers of early 1900s and WW II ration books. All items were found in the attic of the home on Mill Lane in Linfield.
Anita Rogers	Box of miscellaneous books, almanacs, instructions to build furniture, and more.

The Wade Family of Limerick by Martin Witte

In the Winter 2020 Newsletter, we reported that Shirley (Sosa) Reifsnnyder donated a framed photo of the students and teacher at Steinmetz School that was taken in approximately 1910. The one room school picture showed 27 students, including Warren and Laura Wade. On the back of the photo is the note: *"Warren Wade 5th in back row, Laura Wade, second girl in row 2, Children of Mary (Hoff) Wade, Warren is father to Gladys Wade."*

With the clue from the note on the back of this photo, I did some research within the Society's collection of local newspaper obituaries. By looking through this collection for the surname of Wade, I found the following obituary from 20 January 1893:

"Robert Wade, who lived with his father-in-law, Aaron Hoff, in Limerick, died on Sunday, of cancer of the throat from which he had been a patient sufferer for quite a while. He was about 30 years of age and leaves behind a widow and two children. The funeral was held yesterday and the remains were buried at St. James Church, Limerick."

No names are given for the widow or children, but the name of father-in-law, Aaron Hoff, was enough for me to make the connection.

Next, I searched for Gladys Wade. Her obituary stated, *"She was the daughter of the late Warren and Lizzie (Badman) Wade."* The names of siblings were not provided, as that would help with additional research. But, on the back of the photo is a reference to "Aunt Gladys"...another clue.

For the next step in my research, I had to find the obituary of Dorothy (Stauffer) Sosa, who was Shirley's mother. This obituary stated, *"Mrs. Sosa was born on March 27, 1926, in Limerick. She was the daughter of the late Wilson and Laura (Wade) Stauffer."* Now, I had a connection to Laura, who was pictured in the original photo, for the obituary listed Dorothy's daughter, siblings, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Also, in the obituary file is the name of Warren H. Wade, Jr. This piece of the puzzle provided the main connection: *"Born in Limerick, he was the son of the late Warren H. Wade Sr. and Lizzie (Badman) Wade."* Furthermore, the obit lists his three siblings: Mary (Wade) Andes, Gladys (Wade) Slonaker, and Harry Wade. All of this information confirmed the connection to Gladys.

Of course, the obituaries list more children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. From this data, we've developed a *Family History Report* that is on file at the Society. Due to privacy concerns, these names are not listed within this article.

Then I looked in our history book, *Limerick Township: A Journey Through Time 1699-1987*, which mentions the family in the following notes:

- Warren and Laura Wade are shown in a Steinmetz School photo dated 1900.
- Warren H. Wade attended a celebration of the engine room dedication on September 12, 1964. He is listed as one of nine men who signed the original charter for Limerick Fire Co. in 1927. (Note: LFC was organized in 1921 but not chartered until 1927).
- Warren H. Wade, Jr. was listed on the World War II Honor Roll in Limerick Village.

This is a history of a family that was involved in the Limerick community. The Family Tree Chart shows three generations of the family. Members of the society are aware of many individuals from the next three generations of the family, many of whom are still involved in community activities.

