
LIMERICK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

545 WEST RIDGE PIKE, LIMERICK, PA 19468 - PHONE: 610-495-5229

Monthly meetings will resume when Pennsylvania regulations allow them

Limerick Township Historical Society Officers

President: Martin Witte

Vice Pres: Gary Fredricks

Treasurer: Robert Moses

Secretary: John Perry

Historian: Doris Callow

LTHS Board Members

Helen Christman

Jay Kugler

William Miller

Millie Moses

Anita Rogers

Newsletter Composer

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...

Through the volunteer assistance of Doris Callow, Barbara Witwer and me, the Society home remains open on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 3 PM. Throughout the Pandemic, several visitors have brought us donations, but only a few people have called to seek historic information.

Resulting from last year's demolition of the historic Washington School, we decided to identify and encourage preservation of many historic properties. First steps include working with Limerick Township to develop a logical identification system and seeking volunteers. Alexandria Sasak of Linfield is our first volunteer to assist with the project.

Several repairs are ongoing. Gutters damaged by ice were repaired. Front and rear porches were power washed and columns will be painted. Several internal plumbing repairs included a new restroom faucet, kitchen faucet repair, and new outside frost-proof faucet. We have made a plan to increase the size of our parking lot.

As always, we look forward to helping people look for historic information. *Martin Witte, LTHS President*

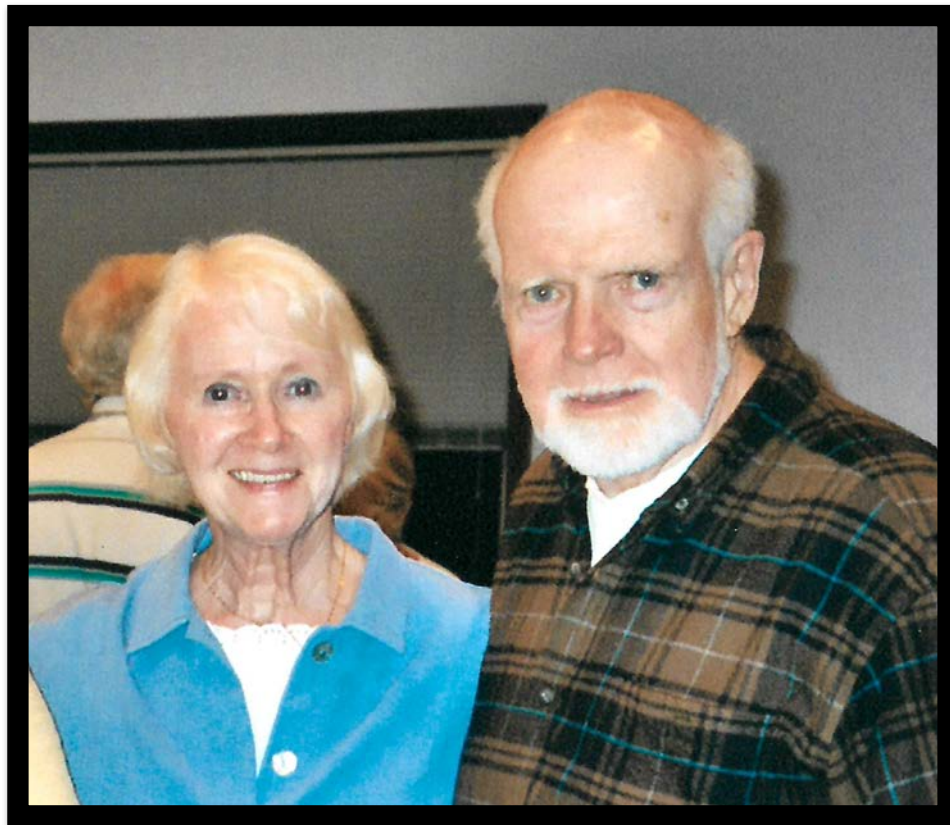
Condolences

We extend our sympathy to Bunny Dempsey and Family....

Dennis F. Dempsey, Jr. passed away April 9th at Reading Hospital. He was the husband of Lorraine (Bunny Bickhart) Dempsey with whom he shared 65-years of marriage. A 1953 graduate of Pottstown High School, Dennis worked for over 40-years at American Machine and Tool in Royersford. His greatest joy came from tending his animals and wood cutting on his hobby farm.

Surviving with his wife are grandsons, Aaron and Dennis F. Dempsey IV. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his son Dennis F. Dempsey III, and his sister Audrey Speilman.

We remember Dennis because he was a very active member of our Society. He attended all of our membership meetings, volunteered at Limerick Community Day, and helped with projects around the Hunsberger House.



Dennis and Bunny at a Society Meeting in 2008

A Note of Thanks...

Doris Callow thanks the members of the Society for their donation to New Hanover Lutheran Church in memory of her son, Cliff.

Museum Donations

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

Susan Bowman Connison

Picture of the Easel-Shaped Monument (20" x 36") bearing the honorable discharge of HENRY FOUST, a private of Captain Thomas C. Steel, Company H, 175th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, who enrolled on the 16th day of October, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two and discharged the 5th day of August 1863 at Philadelphia PA. Under the glass in the left bottom corner is a photo of Henry Foust..



This picture of the Easel shaped Monument bearing the honorable discharge of Henry Foust was presented by him to his children
 — May 15th 1894 —

Museum Donations	We offer a special 'thank you' to each of our donors...
Greg Borneman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1950's era Admiral console TV • An old bottle found within the wall of his house. The outside is covered with plaster, so what was formerly inside cannot be determined, but Greg believes it might have been a whiskey bottle.
Tim Hass, Assistant to the Limerick Township Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framed picture of the covered bridge over the Schuylkill River at the Toll House in Linfield. Reference to this bridge was found in "Legends of Limerick" by Muriel Lichtenwalner.
Eric Hunsberger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia, Montgomery County, PA, 1895 • Handwritten Minutes - Hunsberger, 1937-1998 (2 Volumes); • Two original Hunsberger and Gottshall Photos; • Birth/Death Historian's Notes; • Newsletters & Miscellaneous Secretaries Papers; • Hunsberger Gottshall Connection (5 x 7 card); and • The Gottshall Family History (to be copies and returned)
Millie Moses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War I era music sheets including: "What Are You Going To Do To Help The Boys?" "Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag and Smile Smile Smile," Irvin Berlin's Bugle Song, "Oh! How I Hate To Get Up In The Morning," "How 'Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down On The Farm (After They've Seen Paree?)," Your Song-My Song-Our Boys' Song! "Over There."
Sue & John Perry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Trinley Co.: Handwritten letter dated 1898 and signed by Webster Trinley • Jacob Trinley: Typed message to Mowrey Latshaw Hardware Co. • Linfield Cold Storage & Ice Co.: Handwritten letter to Mowrey Latshaw, 1897 • Linfield Cold Storage & Ice Co.: Handwritten letter to Mowrey Latshaw, 1898 • Linfield Cold Storage & Ice Co.: Handwritten letter, 1897
Charles & Barbara (Wisler) Southby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisler Family Line starting with Peter Saylor; • Find-A-Grave Sheets with some extended family history for HUPERT CASSEL (1687-1745) and HENRY O. CASSEL (1726-1797); • Copy of letter of recommendation for GRACE WISLER from Frank Becker , Co-owner of Lakeside Inn dated 5 August 1958; • Miscellaneous Obituaries, newspaper articles, and other Wisler related history; • History of Related Families - Wisler, Saylor, Ziegler and Gottshall.
Martin Witte	Annual Reports and other church records of St. James Lutheran Church.

**Letter from Barbara Banyai Ciabattoni
April 2021**

It just seems like yesterday that I lived in a beautiful quaint little village of Limerick. I was born in a house on Ridge Pike beside the original Limerick Chapel and across from the old Limerick Hotel in 1938. My parents were Julius and Gertie (Lightcap) Banyai and I had 3 sisters and two brothers: Charlotte, Laura, Carol, Julius and Richard.

We attended St. James Evangelical and Reformed Church (now United Church of Christ).

I know Limerick has changed drastically since then, but I will always have the little village with friendly people in my heart.

We attended Washington Elementary School (which I understand is now gone) with no running water, but it will always be my favorite school. Mr. Hess was the principal, and I have fond memories of Miss Ash. We had to clean our school every Friday. I guess kids nowadays would not believe that.

We lived a very frugal life because of the depression and World War II, but we were never hungry.

We appreciated what we received for Christmas, which was fruit and nuts and hard candy in our stockings.

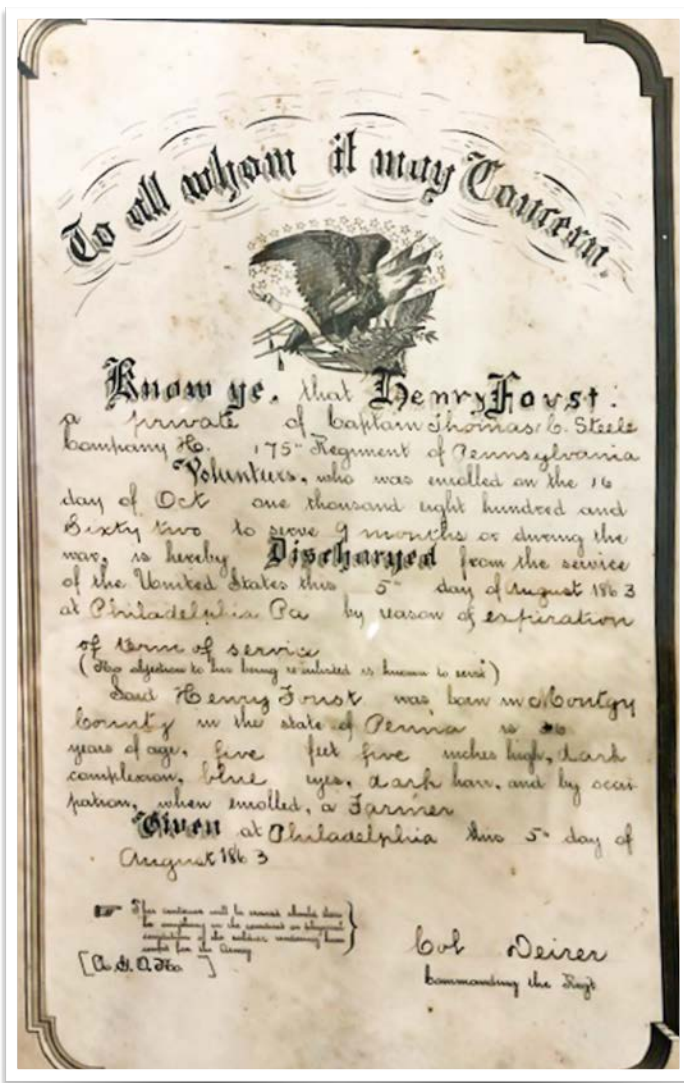
I remember a gift I got when I was about 7 years old. It was a doll with brown eyes like me. I was the only child of 6 with brown eyes like my Father. My parents told me it was difficult to find a doll with brown eyes because most dolls had blue eyes.



Where the years went, I do not know. I left my doll at my parents' home when I left; but years later when they re-located to Collegetown they asked me if I wanted my doll. I of course said yes but what happened to her shocked me. I guess my younger sister and her friends played with her. For many years I tried to find a doll hospital with no success; then I just forgot about it.

Now that I am 82, I look at her and everyone said she looked scary and decided to search again. Having the internet has made a difference. I began searching on the internet in December 2020 after my 82nd birthday. I found one and corresponded with her. It is The Village Doll Hospital in Blue Ball, PA. I told her the condition of the doll was terrible, but she told me not to be embarrassed. I sent her pictures of it and was told it could be repaired; so off she went to Blue Ball, PA via USPS. I received her about 6 or 8 weeks later. I asked if she had a dress for an 8-inch doll I found in the gutter in Royersford when I was walking my dogs, and was put with my old doll as her "baby."

Pleasant memories come back when I look at her like she used to look from my hometown "Limerick."



Enlargement of the Henry Foust Discharge Record and his photo.

