

LIMERICK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly meetings will resume on September 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at Limerick Township Building

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...

Let me begin by making a correction. In the summer newsletter I misspelled the name of a new volunteer at the Society. **Alexandria Sasek** is interested in preserving historic properties in the township and is helping to develop a register of these properties.

After a year and a half, the Society is planning our first members' meeting on Monday, September 13th at 7:30 p.m. at the Limerick Township Building. Since public gatherings may still be regulated, the meeting may be re-scheduled. In the meantime, we're planning for a brief business meeting. Following the meeting, a slide show presentation of historic buildings in Limerick Township demolished over the past 2-years will be provided by Bonnie Groff and me. Additionally, we will explain the register of historic homes and seek volunteers to assist with this project. What is the expected role of a project volunteer? This could include entering information in our database, or taking photos of historic

properties, and/or researching original and subsequent owners of historic properties.

Finally, the Veterans' Memorial Project is still an idea that needs volunteers. While the overall process will take time to complete, the Society welcomes assistance in developing a plan, gathering suggestions about which veterans or wars to recognize, and determining where to place the monuments.

We look forward to seeing all members at our September 13th meeting!

Martin Witte, LTHS President

Historic Preservation By Martin Witte

One of the major expenses for homeowners is the replacement of their roof. When the need for a new roof occurs, a homeowner must consider the following:

- Should 25-year or 30-year shingles be used?
- Should roofing materials be chosen from readily available or custom selections?
- Should a standing seam, metal roof be used on an historic home?
- Should a cedar shingle roof be considered to maintain historic authenticity?


From the above selections, cedar roofing is the most expensive choice due to the cost of labor (e.g., each shingle must be individually attached).

Recently, John and Sue Perry were faced with this roofing dilemma for their historic Linfield home. After careful deliberation, they chose cedar shingles for their new roof. Additional carpentry work will be completed to maintain the character of the structure, as they consider this not only an investment in their home but also an investment in their community. Situated at the gateway of Limerick Township, the well-maintained Perry Home offers passersby a glimpse into our rich and historic past. Following the tenets of the Society's 3rd Mission Statement (as found on the front page of this newsletter), the Perry's are 'restoring' their home...to its 'original character'. We applaud the Perry's for investing in our community!



Museum/Library Donations

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

<p>Jan Berry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarn skein winder • Small two-drawer chest for spools of thread • 1897 Atlas of Montgomery County PA in canvas bag • Large, oval wooden box with two-part lid with carving "L. Haas & Son" (See below) • Five cotton show towels (some with fringe) 
<p>Ruth Borneman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Sankey Wall of Fame newspaper clipping • Humphrey Brooke book (with red cover) • Peter Wentz clippings • Miscellaneous obituaries of area residents and newspaper clippings of historical interest • Gurney Fry Family History
<p>Sharon Brownback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small school desk (used in grades 1 through 4)
<p>Tom Donofrio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper article with picture of banner, "Thank You Popeye (Smull)" - Biggest Fan of Spring-Ford's Football Team.
<p>Eric Forsythe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtain tiebacks (4-glass) from the Hood Mansion Auction (Gilpin Estate)
<p>David Kerns President, Pottstown Historical Society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two photos taken at Ridge Pike and Neiffer Road (circa 1953)

Historic Trappe

- F.R. Brandt (Brant), Limerick Butter Box, 21" x 18 ½" x 6" with sliding doors, dividers, dove tail construction to transport butter to market



Mrs. Dennis (Bunny) Dempsey

- Oil paintings by Alice Dempsey
 - **Old Mill in Neiffer - Red Building with Waterwheel** (1998)
 - **Winter Scene with Stone Bridge on Neiffer Road, Limerick Township** (1987)
- School bell from the Steinmetz one-room school (sold when Spring-Ford jointure was formed)
- Book: *"The Dutch Country: Folks and Treasures in the Red Hills of Pennsylvania"* by Cornelius Weygandt. Copyright 1939. Includes information on Limerick and Neiffer, Medinger Pottery, and other area items of interest.



Michael Osiol

- Disc of Schott Family
- 39-pages of Descendants of William G. Schott and his wife, Dorothea March
- Postcards and photos from Moses Yerger to his father, H.F. Yerger, R.D. 4, Pottstown, PA, sent while he was in service at Camp Meade, Maryland (1917 - 1918).

Who was Moses Yerger? His obituary, found on the *Find-A-Grave* website, provided the following:

Obituary: Moses Schwenk Yerger

Daily Pottstown Ledger - Monday, Nov. 26, 1918, page 1

Moses Schwenk Yerger, aged 27 years, one of the best known young men of Sanatoga, was killed fighting in France. A telegram received by his parents stated that the young soldier was killed fighting in France on November 2.

He was a member of the 316th Regiment. He received his training at Camp Meade in Maryland, and afterward was sent to France with his unit.

In the last letter that he wrote to his parents, he stated that his regiment had been in some lively fighting.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Yerger. Besides his parents, he is survived by a brother, John W. Yerger, and a sister, Mrs. Samuel Smith, both of Sanatoga. He was unmarried. Before he entered the army, he was employed as a carpenter. He was a very popular young man with a wide circle of friends who mourn his demise.

Note: Within their family plot at the Limerick Church Burial Ground, a *Cenotaph* was erected to honor Private Yerger, who was interred in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Department de la Meuse, Lorraine, France.

Nominating Committee

At the June meeting of the Executive Board, a nominating committee was appointed to seek candidates to serve as officers of the Society. All five officers serve for 1-year terms. One Board Member will be elected to serve a 5-year term. If you would like to volunteer to be a candidate for any office, please contact Helen Christman or any current officer. Nominations will be presented in October and elections will take place in November. We know that Gary Fredericks, our Vice President, will not serve again. He and his wife, Robin, are planning to relocate to Utah.

Community Day

On Saturday, August 14th, the Spring-Ford Chamber of Commerce sponsored Community Day at Limerick Township Community Park. During this event, our Society had a space, where we offered free information and sold our history book. While sales only included one history book purchase, we did recruit a new member! Members who assisted at this event included Bob and Millie Moses, Martin Witte, and Jack Perry (pictured below).



Up-coming events (From LFD51 website)

The Limerick Fire Department will be hosting the Annual Firefighters' Association of the State of Pennsylvania Convention & Parade in honor of one hundred plus years of volunteer fire services in Limerick Township. The convention will begin on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. The 4-day event will begin with a golf tournament at Landis Creek Golf Club and culminate with a parade along Ridge Pike on Saturday, September 25, 2021. The parade will begin at noon from Royersford Road and will end at the Limerick Community Park.

Condolences

We offer condolences to the family of **Clyde Scheib**, who passed away at age 95 on August 20th at Parkhouse Center. Clyde leaves his wife of 73-years, Alda, 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. For many years, he and Alda have been members of LTHS and other historical organizations in the vicinity of Kimberton. Clyde had a vast knowledge of the areas' history and wrote the book, *West Seven Stars and Beyond: Preserving Local History*, which was published in 2019. A copy is available in the Society Library.

"I don't consider myself a historian - - I'm a dairy farmer on a farm one-mile from Kimberton ..." begins Clyde's narrative in his book. Over a lifetime, he devised a historical account of the landmarks and events closest to his house in rural Pennsylvania. Rest in Peace, Clyde!

Birthdays of Note

William Carl Lightcap, a former Limerick resident who now lives at Keystone Villas in Douglassville, will celebrate his 104th birthday in October. During WW II, Carl served in the US Army and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. Happy Birthday and THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

Dorothy "Dot" Jones, former long-time president of the Society, recently celebrated her 90th birthday (pictured on the next page with her daughter Lauraine Lindbloom). In honor of her special birthday, a citation recognizing this milestone was presented by State Representative Joe Ciresi. Best wishes, Dot!

