

# LIMERICK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Monthly meetings take place on the Second Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Limerick Township Building

## Limerick Township Historical Society Officers

President: Martin Witte

Vice Pres: Vacant

Treasurer: Robert Moses

Secretary: John Perry

Historian: Doris Callow

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## LTHS Board Members

Helen Christman

Jay Kugler

William Miller

Millie Moses

Anita Rogers

Newsletter Composer

Mary Ann Dailey

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## A few Witte Comments...

This month I will recognize several people who recently helped our Society. Their photos appear throughout this issue.

In the Spring 2021 newsletter, information about the Wade family was provided by **Shirley Sosa Reifsnyder**. During her visit at the Historical Society, she told us about the day she was born. Her story was so interesting that I asked for a written account, which is published in this newsletter issue. Shirley's father, Ray Sosa, was instrumental in getting the World War II monument started.

Recently, Society member, **Maddie Ebling**, changed the display (see page 2) at the Township Building and provided memorabilia highlighting the history of the Limerick and the Linfield Fire Companies. This display coincided with the Pennsylvania Firemen's Convention that was held in September.

In September, Society member **Allie Sasek** (from the Sasek-Lawson for Limerick Supervisor campaign) donated \$128, which was raised at her Vendor Bingo campaign event.

Following our November Membership meeting, Ralph Tutrani

## 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.

provided a slide presentation describing the history of Medevac-12. Ralph served as a gunner on this helicopter and was wounded when it was shot down in Vietnam. You can learn more at this website: <https://lighthorselegacy.org/medevac-12>

*Martin Witte, LTHS President*



**Veterans' Honored at November LTHS Meeting**

**Left to Right: Dr. Greg Gubler, Martin Witte, Herb Landis, Bob Moses, Ralph Tutrani.  
All, but Bob, served in Vietnam**

## A Bit of History

### The Day I Was Born - November 30, 1948

by  
Shirley Sosa Reifsnyder

My father Ray Sosa was born in 1926 in Isabela de Sagua, Cuba and grew up in Fruitville. He always had a love of flying and as a veteran of the U.S. Navy, after World War II, he used the GI Bill to take flying lessons. He, along with Lester and Elmer Smith, bought an airplane.

My dad and mother, Dorothy Stauffer, were married June 14, 1947. On November 30, he went flying with his brother Jesse. As they were landing at New Hanover Airport, he let Jesse take the controls and with his instruction he was to land the plane. He warned Jesse to be aware of a tree near the end of the runway that was hard to see from the air. As you may imagine, Jesse actually clipped the tree with the wing of the airplane. The plane crashed. No one was injured but the plane turned upside down and aviation fuel dripped all over both of them. My dad went to his father's house and found out that mom had been taken to the hospital. He had to change his clothes because he was soaked in fuel, so he put on my grandfather's clothes. You have to take in mind that my father is around 6' 6" and grandpop is 5' 1", if he was lucky.

While my father was up in the airplane my mother knew it was time to go to the hospital, her precious bundle, me, was about to be born. Since dad was not at home, she had her brother-in-law take her to the hospital. While in the delivery room, a nurse on the 3 to 11 shift was telling her about the traffic jam on Swamp Pike in New Hanover because of a plane crash. At that moment, my dad walked into the delivery room with his high-water pants and my mom immediately knew whose airplane was involved in the crash.



## Museum/Library Donations

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

<b>Greg Borneman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1954 calendar with scenes from Switzerland</li> </ul>
<b>Elaine (Ludwig) Fillman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family records and photographs of Brooke family members.</li> <li>• Copy of speech by Walter Leroy Brooke to his graduating class;</li> <li>• Other names on documents/photos include: Irwin R. Brooke, Mr. &amp; Mrs. W.I. Brooke, Helen Brooke, and Walter Leroy Brooke.</li> </ul>
<b>Nancy (Hoffman) Haines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report cards from the Medinger School, Grades 1 to 7; Diploma from 1950; Invitation to 2004 Barlow School Reunion with group photo of former students who attended the reunion (names on photo).</li> </ul>
<b>Jean (Frankenberg) Hess</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picture of Limerick Scout Troop standing by Limerick Roll of Honor;</li> <li>• Nine (9) Linfield School class photos - students unidentified;</li> <li>• Three (3) very old photos - undated - students unidentified;</li> <li>• Six (6) 8" X 11" photos: 4 dated 1925, 2 dated 1929, students unidentified.</li> </ul>
<b>Millie Moses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calendar and thermometer advertisement from Harleysville National Bank and Trust Co. with a picture of a young girl and her puppy</li> </ul>
<b>Robert Emerson Smith</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington School 1950 class photo - grades 7 and 8 (from last year of classes held at this school - students identified - see photo on page 4).</li> </ul>
<b>Jean (Bartholomew) Wiggins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picture plate of St. James Church, Limerick, PA;</li> <li>• Student handbooks: Spring-Ford Senior High -1962-1963 and 1963 -1964</li> </ul>
<b>Robert Wittendorf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small parts for attaching a tray to a Gorson antique potty chair. The chair had been donated several years ago.</li> </ul>
<b>Unknown Donor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seal of Limerick Township Municipal Authority</li> </ul>
<b>Unknown Donor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photo from April 2004 LTHS meeting with Clyde Scheib holding a 'ride on toy' antique tractor. See photo on page 5.</li> </ul>



7TH AND 8TH GRADE, LIMERICK GRADE SCHOOL 1950

### WASHINGTON SCHOOL 1950

Front Row: L to R: LaVerne Miller (7), Bobby Wier (7), Larry Costa, Harry Leopold (8),  
Jay Kugler (7), Guy Wagner (7)

2nd Row: Joyce Kirtner, June Leigh, Ruby Goodhart (7), Barbara Alderfer, Doris Schlichter (7),  
Annie Kelius (7), Louise Borneman (7), Joan Moses (7)

3rd Row: Bill Andes (8), Emerson Smith (7), Ray Donnelly (8), Carl Gottshall (8), Janis Frankenburg (8),  
James Hildebeital, Althea Long (8), Jane Kohn, Teacher Ray Spaide,  
Ronald Knepp (8), Ed Brimmer (8), Dave Hallman (8), Bernard Didden (8)

## Coming Events

### Christmas Open House

On Sunday, December 12, 2021, the Society will sponsor a Christmas Open House at the Hunsberger House. Christmas cookies and refreshments will be served. The Cider Press House and the Bake Oven House will be open for visits. Our parking lot will be reserved for people with walkers or canes, so all other visitors should park next-door at the McCormick Chiropractic Office.

### Society Christmas Meeting

Date/Location: Monday, December 13, 2021, Christmas Meeting, 7:30 PM at Township Building

Program: Special Christmas Memories. Members will share memories of Christmas Past.

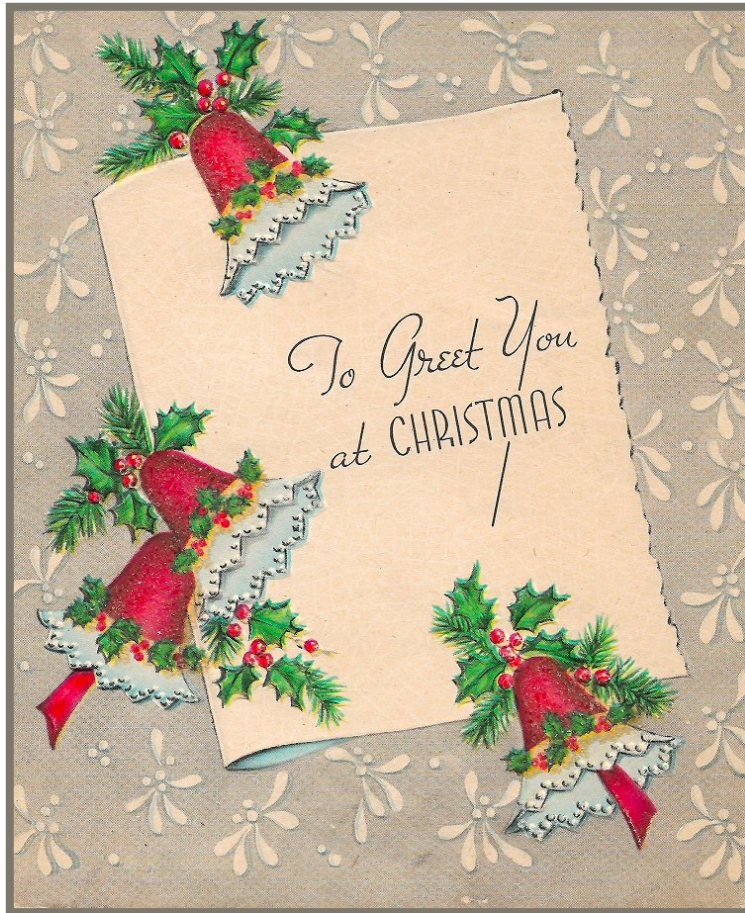
For our Christmas "Show and Tell", you'll need to explore your attic or drawers for old treasures, such as Lincoln Logs, Easy-Bake Ovens, or baby dolls. For example, at the April 2004 Antique Road Show, the late **Clyde Scheib** (pictured below) displayed his childhood ride-on toy tractor made by a family member. Additionally, members can describe Family Christmas traditions and share memories of Christmas past.

Cookies, snacks and refreshments will be served. Please come and enjoy our holiday celebration!



### Get Well Wishes

Our thoughts are sent to **Helen Christman**, who broke a bone in her foot and is not able to drive a car.



## I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW

J. BAPTISTE CALKIN

1. I heard the bells on Christmas day Their old fa-mil-iar car-ols play,  
 2. I thought how, as the day had come, The bel-fries of all Chris-ten-dom  
 3. And in despair I bow'd my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said,  
 4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
 5. Till, ring-ing, sing-ing on its way, The world revolved from night to day,

And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
 Had roll'd a-long th'un-bro-ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
 "For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men?"  
 The wrong shall fail, the right pre-vail, With peace on earth, good will to men!  
 A voice, a chime, a chant sub-lime, Of peace on earth, good will to men!

