

LIMERICK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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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: Alexandria Sasek

Treasurer: Robert Moses

Secretary: John Perry

Historian: Doris Callow

LTHS Board Members

Helen Christman

Jay Kugler

William Miller

Millie Moses

Anita Rogers

Newsletter Editor

Mary Ann Dailey



A few Witte Comments...

Last fall, the Executive Board decided to re-institute the pre-COVID schedule where the Hunsberger House will be open on the second Sunday of each month. Now, those individuals who have an interest in the Historical Society but work during the week can visit our headquarters for tours or research. Beginning on the second Sunday of December, members hosted a Christmas Open House. **Anita Rogers** led a team of decorators to prepare the Hunsberger House for visitors. Additionally, she called members to serve as tour guides for the day. **Danny Almeida** (pictured below) gave tours of the cider press house

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.



and the bake oven house, while **Bunny Dempsey** (at right) gave tours of the Hunsberger House. Twenty-four people attended including ten first-time visitors.

The December meeting of the Historical Society was an interesting 'show and tell' experience. Many members brought personal treasures from Christmases past and discussed their sentimental value, while others shared personal Christmas memories and stories. Photos of some of these treasures are included in this newsletter. Of course, we had Christmas cookies and other snacks after the meeting. We thank all who made those delicious homemade treats or contributed other food and beverage items.



One of the most interesting memories was shared by Bunny Dempsey, who related a story about her late husband, Dennis. Because it was such a heartwarming memory, Bunny graciously agreed to write her story, which appears in this issue under *A Bit of History*.

Because of the vacancy in the Vice President position after Gary Fredericks moved to Utah, the Executive Board at its December meeting selected Alexandria Sasek to fill that position. Allie has an interest in preserving the historic homes in Limerick and is helping to compile a list of those homes.

Martin Witte, LTHS President



Christmas Open House

The Geiser Family with Gigi, the youngest visitor

Members Share Mementoes and Memories at December 2021 Society Meeting



**Alice Lang and Dr. Greg Gubler
describing Christmas memories**



**Little Homemaker Toys of
Mary Ann Dailey**



**Donna Gottshall holding her Christmas ornament
and Shirley Slater with her dolls**



Anita Rogers and her baby doll



Toy Vehicles of Robert Evans

A Bit of History

"Wife of a Celebrity"

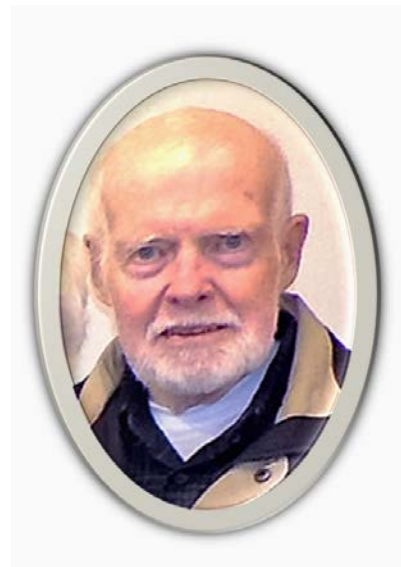
by

Bunny Dempsey

It was 1954 while ice skating at a local pond that a shy young fellow joined the crowd. His resemblance to the new Italian singer, *Julius LaRosa*, had all the girls swooning and vying for his attention, and he was instantly called "Julie." It took almost a month until he asked one of us for a date. I was the lucky one. Two years later in June of 1956 we were married. It took quite a while until I could get used to his given name, Dennis.

As the years passed and his hair got gray and a few pounds were added he was compared to his look alike *Kenny Rogers*. Instead of Denny, he was called Kenny by all his buddies. That lasted for a short while, but he was still called Julie by old friends.

Later in life while visiting a museum in Key West, FL, Denny was approached by a woman and her daughter who wanted to know where he was from and if he was there for the "Look Alike Contest." Knowing nothing about it, they explained that the town was crowded for the *Ernest Hemingway* look-alike contest and he was sure to get in the finals. These things embarrassed him, but made me proud to be the wife of someone famous. He was very happy to leave Florida before the contest started.



Many years later, the last and most memorable was a stop at a local garage sale. Seeing a mower he wanted Denny roamed around and found no one tending the sale. Hearing a lot of laughter and chatter coming from the back of the house he went around and knocked on the door. All the noise stopped. From the truck where I was sitting I heard almost a scream, "It's Archie Bunker"! And, the noise started again.

He later told me that half a dozen women ran to the door to get a look at "*Archie Bunker*." He surmised that most of them were tipsy. Once again, he was a look-alike.

Julie, Kenny, Ernest, or Archie, he was always *Dennis* to me.

Museum/Library Donations

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

Clara P. Hoss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October 2021, Elaine Fillman gave the Society a number of photographs she had received from her friend, Clara P. Hoss. All photos will be filed, as well as scanned and saved, in our computer. While most of the photos are of Limerick businesses from the late 2000's, some of these places have been renamed or are no longer in operation. These photos include: <i>Airport Inn, Baker Equipment & Engineering, Epps Beverage, Fisher Furniture Store, Hi-Way Drive-In Theater, Ricci Hi Way Restaurant, Java Brewin', Lakeside Driving Range, Lakeside Inn, Limerick Chapel, Limerick Diner, Limerick Garden of Memories, Limerick Golf Club, Sawchuk's Garage, Waltz Golf Farm, and Western Montgomery Vocational Technical School.</i>
Limerick Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three CDs of properties under development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scott KIA - 21-1 Heritage Field - 28 - 2 Limerick Plaza II - 28 - 3
Limerick Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six CDs of Properties under development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSA: 1301 Main Street (Publicker) LD #21-10: Buckman's Lot Line Adjustment LD #22-01: Sanatoga Springs Lot 1, Phase 2 LD #22-02: Verus Partners LLC LD #22-03: Linfield Corporate Center Lots 62-23 LD #22-04: Linfield Corporate Center Lot 64
Martin Witte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map of Montgomery County, PA showing the itinerary of George Washington in Montgomery County in 1777. Issued by Trappe Bicentennial Commission - September 1977
Arlene (Borneman) Umstead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family History written by her father, Herbert Walter Borneman. Dated: 26 May 1903 - 21 December 1999

Online Genealogy Conference

For anyone interested in conducting family research, an upcoming **online** event, *Roots Tech*, will be available **'free of charge'** from March 3 - 5, 2022. Sponsored by *Family Search*, this online conference is available for beginners and experienced researchers. Included among the 1500 online sessions will be tips on how to 'get started,' how to find clues in census records and military records, and how to collect family stories and create oral histories. For more information about this World's Largest Family History Conference, you can visit www.familysearch.org

March Program

On March 14, 2022, the Society will hold its first meeting of the year at the Limerick Township Building. For our program, Mary Ann Dailey will provide a photographic tour of *The Balkans: Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, and Slovenia*. Located within the region of the Balkan Mountains and the Dinaric Alps, these Southeast European countries were created after the dissolution of Yugoslavia. Beautiful vistas and ancient architecture of Dubrovnik, Split and Zagreb, Croatia, Novi Sad, Serbia, Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Ljubljana, Slovenia will be shared, as well as scenes along Kotor Bay in little Montenegro. Within the cosmopolitan city of Belgrade, Serbia, some bombed-out structures remain as a reminder of the Wars between the former Yugoslav Republics. All photos were taken by Mary Ann while visiting this region in 2019.



Get Well Wishes

The Society sends our well wishes to **Alda Scheib**.

New Addresses

Jay Kugler is now a resident at *Chestnut Knoll* in Boyertown.

A new resident at *Sanatoga Ridge* in Lower Pottsgrove Township is **Bunny Dempsey**.

Condolences

Robert "Bob" Lang, 94, husband of Society member, Alice Lang, died on January 5, 2022. Bob was active with the Trappe Volunteer Fire Department and the Lower Providence Ambulance, and was a member of St. James Episcopal Church, Evansburg, PA. A World War II Veteran with the U.S. Navy, Bob was a retired Pennsylvania State Trooper. We extend our deepest sympathy to Alice and her family.

William Carl Lightcap, 104, husband of June (Egolf) Lightcap, died Sunday, November 14, 2021 at Keystone Villa where he resided with his wife. William, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, wrote in great detail about his memories in the service of our country.

June (Egolf) Lightcap, 96, widow of William Carl Lightcap, passed away on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at Keystone Villa in Douglassville, PA. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of William and June.

