
LIMERICK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Website: LimerickPaHistory.org

Email: historian@LimerickPaHistory.org

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: Alexandria Sasek

Treasurer: Robert Moses

Secretary: John Perry

Historian: Doris Callow

LTHS Board Members

Helen Christman

William Miller

Millie Moses

Anita Rogers

Newsletter Editor

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...

Sometimes we ask ourselves, "What do we have and where is it?" For many years, we received donations that were set aside to be cataloged and displayed at a later date. Although we have a logbook of donations, we do not know the location for some of them. So, we created a computer spreadsheet listing all these donations. As we find them, each will be listed with their associated location. To help with identification, Barbara Witwer photographed many of these artifacts.

Under the direction of Barbara Witwer, volunteers (each listed within this newsletter) helped to clean and organize the artifacts at the Hunsberger House. All donated artifacts are stored in archival boxes, which are inventoried to include their storage location. Bunny Dempsey, Mattie Ebling and Helen Christman have helped with this task. We thank Holly Rumler, who also helped organize some of our files.

Our Vice-President, Allie Sasek, suggested that we move some kitchen items for display in our kitchen...so we did that! Reviewing our inventory, we found some interesting donations from the 1950s. While a lot of us do not see the 1950s as historic, it was 70-years ago. Growing-up in the 1960s, we looked back at 1890 and thought, 'Gee, the Gilded Age was 70-years ago'...So, now, the 1950s are considered historic! With this in mind, we are now organizing some items in an area to represent a typical living room from that era.

Our library and main work room was dedicated to Edgar B. Grubb, our benefactor. As a tribute to Mr. Grubb, his school and college diplomas were uncovered and hung in the library by Jack Perry.

While some names of volunteers may have been missed, we thank all our volunteers for their help.

Martin Witte, LTHS President



Volunteers for Attic Clean-Up

Martin Witte, Jack Perry and Mattie Ebling

History of the Limerick Diner

Our presenter for the evening was Al Herr, long time Limerick resident and business owner who graduated from Spring-Ford High School in 1965. His association with the diner came through his marriage to the daughter of the builders and owners of the second Limerick Diner, Edward (Butch) and Katherine (Kay) Moore. Al presented many vintage pictures of the area where Ridge Pike and Swamp Pike intersect, which is where the story of the Limerick Diner played out.

Originally, Butch Moore leased the Texaco Station on Ridge Pike, and next door, on the same side of Ridge Pike was a diner, which is now the site of the Ambler Savings Bank. It is across the road from the current Limerick Diner. Butch would occasionally eat in the diner, but was not impressed with the food. He believed that he and Kay could do a better job, so they bought the diner operation. Under their ownership, business at the diner improved dramatically, but that led to a problem. The diner sat on leased land, and when the lease came up for renewal, the owner raised the lease considerably. Butch's answer was to approach the lease holders' brother, who owned the land on the other side of Ridge Pike, and negotiate for the sale of a plot of ground.

With the land now owned by Butch, he began the planning and construction of what he envisioned as a first-rate diner and eating establishment. This occurred in 1969, and the process to construct the diner was somewhat unique. Al showed the construction process from breaking ground to the finished diner in a series of wonderful vintage pictures. First, a foundation was dug and poured, and the rear dining room, kitchen, and cellar (storage room) were built using a standard concrete block method. While that was underway, Butch had contracted with a New Jersey firm to construct the counter and booth area of the diner as modular units, fully outfitted to be shipped to Limerick. When completed, the two large modules were shipped to Limerick and jacked and slid into place on the pad that had been built to house them. All of the pieces came together in late 1969, and the diner opened with much fanfare on January 5, 1970. It was an immediate success and for many years was one of the top earning diners in the United States. With its great location it became a convenient meeting spot for people to stop for some excellent food! Over the years the diner was upgraded, but Kay continued to be the guiding force for her Limerick Diner. Eventually, operation of the diner was shared with Butch and Kay's daughter, Debbie Herr, to continue the family business. In 2007, the diner was then sold to a family operation that managed and ran several other diners. Unfortunately, the diner is currently closed and is up for sale.

We thank John F. Perry, our secretary, for writing this report of our April Members Meeting.

Museum/Library Donations

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

Pete Mogel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The October 23, 1939 issue of the Pottstown Mercury newspaper with the front-page story reporting the death of Pete's brother, Harry Mogel.
Limerick Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous CDs of various ongoing developments in the Township
Michael Osiol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March Brownback & Co. National Stove Works Catalog of models of stoves.
Jay & Holly Rumler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colored copies of family Bible pages including information for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The marriage of Howard Evans, who married Mary B. Isett on March 18, 1860. Pedigree charts (ancestors) Frank Rumler (William John Rumler) June LaRue Scholl
Alexandria Sasek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thirteen-page booklet: "Publicker Industries, Inc., Distillery Workers Local Union, No. 263, AFL-CIO" Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Condolences

Recently, we learned of the Feb. 8, 2021 death of longtime member and Spring City resident, Miss Florence Beard. She was pre-deceased by her parents and siblings, and is survived by nieces and a nephew. We extend our condolences to her family.

Display Changes at the Hunsberger House

- Kitchen items and cookbooks have been moved downstairs to the *kitchen* (see photo).
- Within the 'Household Area' a 50's corner is being prepared to include the radio, TV, winged chair, floor lamp and ashtray.
- Once again, the Medinger Pottery is displayed in the *Museum Room*.



Thank You to Volunteers

- Attic clean-up: Mattie Ebling, Jack Perry, Martin Witte and Barbara Witwer.
- Inventory recording and miscellaneous jobs: Bunny Dempsey, Mattie Ebling, and Helen Christman.
- Picture hanging at the Hunsberger House by Jack Perry:
 - *In the Edgar B. Grubb Memorial Library*: Three diplomas for Edgar B. Grubb and the Dedication Plaque.
 - *In the Reception Room*: An aerial view of the Hunsberger property.

We thank John F. Perry, our secretary, for writing this report of our March Members Meeting.

“A Photographic Journey Through the Balkans” was presented by Mary Ann Dailey, who is a member, a long-term friend of the Society, and a former State Legislator. She began the presentation with a brief history of the region, which was summed up as a region having fluid boundaries that have been repeatedly fractured by ethnic divisions. Remnants of the former post-WW2 Yugoslavia and maps of past and present boundaries were presented for context. We were then treated to a virtual photographic tour through the region, which featured stunning views of mountains, valleys, rivers, and streams. We were also treated to pictures of the inhabitants of each region, as well as local wildlife and vegetation, especially the flowers. As with previous presentations by Mary Ann, the photography was picturesque and artfully done. The Society extends its appreciation to Mary Ann for providing another memorable presentation.



History of the Lions Club in Limerick: A Presentation by Harold Herr

At the May LTHS monthly meeting, Harold Herr, a longtime township resident, businessman, former Township Commissioner, and former Republican Committee Leader, provided an interesting overview of the Lions Club in Limerick. The International Association of Lions Clubs was founded in Chicago in 1917, and the Limerick chapter was organized in the 1950's. While most people believe the title "LIONS" refers to a wild beast, Harold informed the group that it is an acronym for 'Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations' Safety.'



The Lions Clubs International are a non-political service organization that promote principles of good government and good citizenship.

Among their noteworthy programs are sight conservation and diabetes awareness. For many years, the local Lions held fundraisers and used the proceeds to provide eye exams and eye glasses for children in Township schools. Once US Government programs began covering eyeglass purchases for needy children, the services provided by the local Lions was no longer needed. The Club disbanded in 2010.

Among the artifacts of the LTHS are many Lions "pins," which were on display at the meeting. We thank Harold for an enjoyable and informative presentation.

Upcoming Meetings in 2022

June 13th at 6:30 p.m. **Tour of the Rothermel House**, former home of the late Peter Frederick Rothermel, painter of "The Battle of Gettysburg, Picket's Charge". Louis and Rebecca Geiser, the current owners, will host a tour of their home at 534 Limerick Center Road, Linfield. Members will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Rothermel House.

July 11th at 6:30 p.m. **Our Annual Picnic** at the Limerick Township Municipal Building. The meal will be catered by Foresta's, so members are asked to bring a dessert. The program will be members' memories of "Picnics, Parades and Family Reunions."

August 8, 7:30 p.m. Not yet confirmed

September 12th at 7:30 p.m. **Linfield School Reunion** at the Limerick Township Municipal Building. The Linfield School was built in 1909 with four rooms for grades 1 to 8. It closed in 1950 when the Limerick Consolidated Building opened.