
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

William Miller

Millie Moses

Anita Rogers

Mattie Ebling

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...

Within this newsletter are two major topics: schools and Revolutionary War Battles. Because several articles are related to schools, we'll consider this the Back-to-School edition.

This newsletter includes a 70-year-old photo of the 1952 Limerick Elementary School Safety Patrol. My sister, Honora, a member of that Safety Patrol, is included in the photo. Within the donation section, my sister, Emily, is cited for her gift of 50-year-old charms from the Spring-Ford High School, Class of 1971. Additionally, there is information about Noah Orlor, a Spring-Ford High School Senior, who is the recipient of the LTHS Annual Award.

This year marks the 245th anniversary of several major Revolutionary War battles. At our August meeting, I made a presentation about the travels of General George Washington and the Continental troops that participated in The Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. Following this famous battle, General Washington and his troops traveled through Limerick on their way to the Battle of Germantown. On Sept. 26, 1777, the

British Army entered Philadelphia. Then, on October 4, 1777, the Continental Army mounted an unsuccessful attempt to retake Philadelphia at the Battle of Germantown.

Finally, there is information about the Mordecai Evans Home, the oldest historic home in Limerick Township, which is located at 1206 Main Street in Linfield. At this location, General Washington stopped and penned a letter to the President of the Continental Congress. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Evans home may be available for purchase and preservation by the Society - one of the key points of our Mission.

Martin Witte, LTHS President

Nearby Re-Enactments

The Battle of Brandywine Re-Enactment: This two-day event takes place on September 24th and 25th at Sandy Hollow Heritage Park, South New Street and Birmingham Road, Birmingham Township, Chester County. A Revolutionary War encampment will be hosted by the Skippack Historical Society on September 1st and 2nd. At this event, you can step-back in time to the Revolutionary War and see a live encampment, rifle regiments, demonstrations, cooking in the Summer Kitchen, children's crafts, and lots of history! All events will be held at the Indenhofen House on Route 73 (Skippack Pike) and Old Forty Foot Rd., Skippack.

Awards

At the July 2021 Executive Board meeting, the Board approved Barbara Witwer as the recipient of the Hunsberger Award for her dedicated service to the society over the past four years. While a faithful volunteer, Barbara never became a Society member. Therefore, the Executive Board also granted Barbara the Hood Lifetime Membership Award. These awards were presented at the September 2021 Membership meeting (see photo at right with Martin presenting the awards to Barbara).



New Board Member

For the June 2022 Executive Board Meeting, the kitchen at the Hunsberger House was full, as every member was in attendance. During this meeting, the Executive Board selected Mattie Ebling to fill the unexpired term of Jay Kugler, who was unable to continue in his role. Over the past several years, Mattie has been volunteering at the Hunsberger House.

Visitors

Recent visitors at the Hunsberger House included: Bryan and Donna Gottshall, Heather Peterman, Timothy Carr and Brian Jones.

Membership Data

Member Categories	Totals by Group
Regular Members	45
Lifetime Members	73
Over age 80 Members	23
Student Members	3
Members from Other Historical Societies	8
Total Membership	152

Note: Life members and those over age 80 do not pay dues per Society policy. Each quarter, 120 newsletters are mailed to members with husband and wife members receiving only one per household.

Historian Needed

Doris Callow has decided to step-down as Historian, a position that she held for many years. Each year, this office is open for election, as the Historian is an officer of the Society.

The key duties of the Historian are as follows:

- Has a working knowledge of computers, and
- Is able to assist at the Hunsberger House several hours each week to assist visitors, do research, and continue organizing historic archives. Some of the research can be done from home.

Volunteers Needed

Flower bed care: Someone who enjoys gardening is needed to maintain our flower beds.

Ongoing volunteer jobs: Assist with scanning of photos, duplicating video tapes, organizing files and historic objects.

Museum/Library Donations

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

<p>Ruth Borneman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Reports for Limerick St. James Reformed Church from 1898-1991 (Now St. James United Church of Christ) • Advertising comb, 1965-1975, "Arlene Ziegler Beauty Salon," Arlene (Miller) Ziegler, Owner-Operator
<p>Timothy Carr</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Baby Tenda</i> (circa 1952). Used by Tim's wife, her family, their children, and grandchildren.
<p>Mike Dickey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Valley Item" - Aug. 4, 1994 - Contains articles about the tornado in Limerick.
<p>E. Erich Hess</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochure with colored pictures: <i>The Potters Medinger - The Last of the Traditional Pennsylvania German Potters</i>, by Ivan W. Hess, M.D. and R. Erich Hess.
<p>Ken Horn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinsey Advertisements from 1945 and 1949
<p>Emily (Witte) Miller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring-Ford High School, Class of 1971, ring charm, pendant and prom charm (photo below right). • Spring-Ford High School, Class of 1971, Band Pendant and Music Pin (photo below left).
<p>William Miller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framed 12" X 20" colored picture of Lakeside Inn • Limerick Township Map after 1840 (possibly 1877) • Poster: Battle of Gettysburg • Notebook of LTHS Meeting Minutes • LTHS old membership lists • Patterns for child's prairie dress and pinafore "Folkwear" • Miscellaneous papers about LTHS activities
<p>Betty Place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of "The Limerick Light" - July 23, 1986, Tamaqua Water Flows Toward Limerick. • Copy of "The Limerick Light" - Oct. 29, 1980



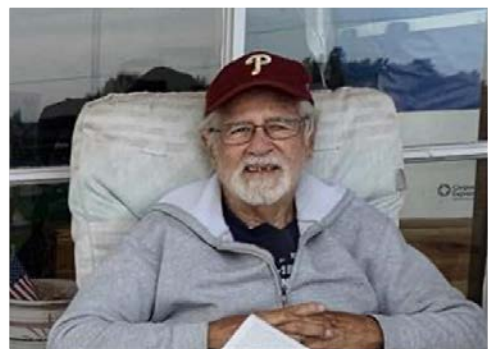
SFHS Graduate award 2022

For many years our Society has given a cash award to The Spring-Ford High School graduate from Limerick Township who excels in history. On Wednesday, June 8, 2022, this year's award recipient, Noah Orlor, stopped at the Hunsberger House to personally thank the Society for this award. During this visit, he was given a tour by President Martin Witte and copies of our history book and index (see photo at right). Noah showed genuine interest in all areas of the Hunsberger House.

Noah was a student at Brooke Elementary School, then the various school buildings that house the upper grades. Noah will continue his education at the University of Delaware, where he plans to major in Music Education.



Condolences



William M. Miller, Jr., 91, of Limerick, husband of the late Patricia A. (Becker) Miller, passed away Wednesday July 27, 2022 at his residence surrounded by his dedicated and loving family. Born in Phoenixville, he was the son of the late William M. and Mary Rose (Valerio) Miller.

William was active in Limerick Township politics and the Limerick Township Historical Society. He was the general manager for Lakeside Inn for many years. He was an avid Philadelphia sports fan and Jeopardy viewer. William also enjoyed traveling to Florida in the wintertime.

Surviving are nine children, 20 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and brother Barry Miller. Along with his wife and parents, William was predeceased by his son Jeffrey Miller.

A Funeral Mass was held Monday August 1, 2022 at St. Teresa of Calcutta, Burial was at Limerick Church Burial Grounds. The family asked that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in William's memory to the Limerick Township Historical Society.

NL 2022-3 Evans House **By Jack Perry, Secretary**

A special general membership meeting was called by President Martin Witte to discuss the potential opportunity to purchase the Mordecai Evans House from Limerick Township. The meeting was held on July 25, 2022, at the Limerick Township Building in the Limerick conference room.



The Mordecai Evans house is potentially the oldest existing building in Limerick Township. Built in 1720 as a log house, improved with a stone addition in 1763, and again improved with an addition in the 1980s, the house entered history on September, 1777 following the Battle of Brandywine, when George Washington and the main body of the

Continental Army crossed the Schuylkill River at Parkers Ford. Following the crossing, General Washington entered the Mordecai Evans house, dried his clothes, and dictated a letter to the President of the Congress concerning his plans for maneuvering the army to protect his position. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

The house was privately owned until 2022, when the owners offered it for sale to Limerick Township, who consummated a sale. The township was principally interested in the several acres of land behind the house and barn which adjoin the existing township owned Linfield Sports Park. The property also potentially plays into future traffic improvement plans as part of the Village of Linfield development effort.

The township has developed a potential strategy to subdivide the property to separate the house and barn into a small parcel and sell that portion of the property. In that vein, the township asked if the Limerick Township Historical Society would be interested in purchasing that portion.

Nineteen members attended the July 25 meeting and offered many suggestions of ideas that must be considered before the Society would acquire the property. At the meeting was Lisa Minardi, Executive Director of Historic Trappe. President Witte invited her because Historic Trappe has multiple properties and was sure her insights would be helpful.

Past meeting - Tour of the Rothermel House

On June 13th Society members had a tour of the Rothermel House, former home of the late Peter Frederick Rothermel, painter of "The Battle of Gettysburg, Picket's Charge". We thank Louis and Rebecca Geiser, the current owners, for hosting this tour of their home.

Upcoming Meetings	
September 12, 2022	Linfield School Reunion: We invite anyone who attended the Linfield Elementary School to attend this meeting and share their memories. Photos of past reunions will be shown.
October 10, 2022	Guest speakers, Paula and Rob Bickelman of <i>Find Solutions Properties</i> , will discuss the 5-years they spent revitalizing homes in Pottstown with their team of skilled tradespeople.
November 14, 2022	Not confirmed
December 12, 2022	Annual Christmas Program. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

Limerick Township Community Day 2022

Saturday, August 13, 2022, was the Annual Limerick Township Community Day. During this event, the Society was represented by (clockwise at top) Danny Almeida, Jack Perry, Helen Christman and Martin Witte.





Limerick Elementary School - Safety Patrol 1952-1953

Back Row: Charles B. Shoup, 6th Grade Teacher; Howard Michener, Principal; Raymond Spaide, 6th Grade Teacher

Third Row: Honora Witte, Ann Corbin, Dorothy Laume, Joan Epps, Joanne Wiseman, Lyndell Wieand, Martha Epps, Joanne Chapay, Peggy Poley, Bill Bowman

Second Row: Bonnie Davis, Judy Brendlinger, Barbara Piasecki, Sara Glenn, Tom Moses, Connie Didden, Kenny Long, Barbara Zubert, Joan Astheimer, Marjory Yerger, Sandra Haldeman, Patsy Weglos.

First Row: Wesley Nyce, Richard (Pickles) Landis, Douglas Diener, Glenn Borneman, Larry Sager, Ken Maurer, David Sauerland, Ray Kelius, George Gauger, Dale Schurr, Elroy Rupert