

**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.



## Limerick Township Historical Society Newsletter

545 W. Ridge Pike - Limerick, PA 19468 - 610-495-5229

Monthly meetings take place on the 2nd Monday at 7:30 P.M. at Limerick Twp. Building

Website: [LimerickPaHistory.org](http://LimerickPaHistory.org)

Email: [historian@LimerickPaHistory.org](mailto:historian@LimerickPaHistory.org)

### Limerick Township Historical Society Officers

President: Martin Witte  
Vice Pres: Alexandria Sasek  
Treasurer: Robert Moses  
Secretary: John Perry  
Historian: Barbara S. Witwer

### LTHS Board Members

Helen Christman  
Millie Moses  
Anita Rogers  
Mattie Ebling  
Mary Ann Dailey

Newsletter Editor  
Mary Ann Dailey

### A few Witte Comments...

At the March 1st meeting of the Officers and Directors, the purchase of the William and Mordecai Evans property in Linfield was approved. Portions of this house exist as the oldest building still standing in Limerick Township. Following Board approval, Limerick Township was notified and they proceeded with the sub-division from the rest of the property. On April 18th, the Limerick Township Supervisors approved the sub-division and submitted it for registration with the Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds. Official notification of this registration was recently received by the Society. For legal assistance, we have engaged the Law Offices of Robert Brant, Esq., who will represent the Society in this purchase. Settlement could be in May.



The Publicker/Kinsey property in Linfield has a new owner, Limerick Town Center LLC, who purchased the property in September 2022 from Linfield Industrial Park, Inc. (owners since 1982). The proposed use is for a warehouse, however no specific plans have been presented to the township. The new owners are in the process of clearing the property and removing some buildings.



Jack Perry contacted Limerick Township and asked for some artifacts from the property. Tim Haas, Assistant to the Manager, offered the “Publicker” sign, which was graciously accepted and delivered by the Limerick Township Road Crew (See donations in this issue).

Members Allie, Jack, Martin, and Margie Schweitzer have been attending the *Limerick Tricentennial* planning meetings. Other members are welcome to attend these meetings or volunteer for committees. Please contact any of these members and describe how you would like to be involved in this 2026 celebration.

*Martin Witte, LTRHS President*

## Welcome New Members

We welcomed 4 new members since the beginning of the year, **Patrick Welch, Patrick Nelson, Greg Pusak, and Emily Miller.**

## Other Society News

**Allie Sasek** and **Martin** have been attending meetings of area historical societies. This is a cooperative effort to share information that may be mutually helpful.

Happy Birthday to **Lorraine “Bunny” Dempsey** (pictured right) who celebrated her 90th birthday in February.

Happy 80th Birthday to **Martin Witte**, who celebrated his special day in May.



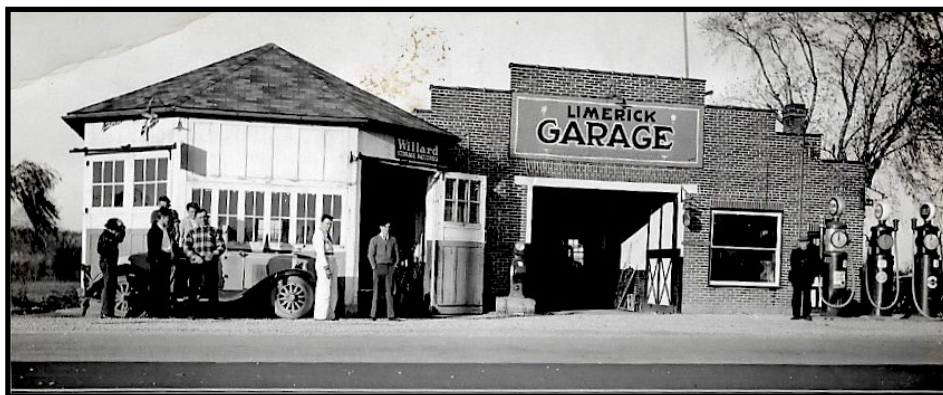
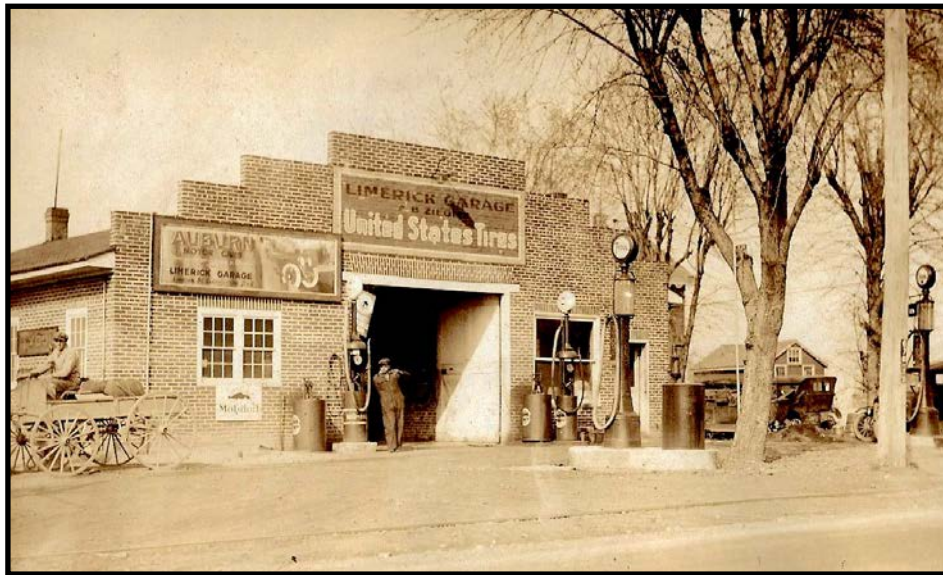
## A Bit of History: The Limerick Garage

By Martin Witte

Within the Society's files is a photographic history of the Limerick Garage, which was located on the edge of Limerick Square near Swamp Pike.

An early photo (below - top) from about 1910 shows that the garage was operated by Amos B. Ziegler. The two cars in the photo are the style common from about 1905 to 1925. To the left of the garage is a wagon and, we can guess, a horse just out of the photo. In front of the garage are gasoline pumps. Standing in the doorway is an attendant, who would have manually pumped the gas into a measured glass cylinder before gravity fed it into a car's tank

Another photo (below - bottom) from the 1920s shows the brick front on the garage with no operator's name. Attached to the left of the garage is an octagonal building with a group of men standing in front of a circa 1930s roadster. The gas pumps were probably electrically operated.



Our History Book reports that in 1940, David L. Tyson gave the Limerick Garage to his son, Fred. The 1940s photo (below) shows Fred Tyson's name on the sign. While the brick front has been painted white, the gas pumps remain in the same location with a different style. The two cars are models from circa 1927 to 1934. During the 1950s, Fred Tyson rented his garage to Lonnie Wiseman.

**See Limerick Garage Before Starting Trip**

Before you start on that late Summer or early Fall vacation trip, why wouldn't it be a good idea to drop in with that car of yours at the Limerick garage in Limerick and have it checked over.

**Lonnie Wiseman**, proprietor, or one of his skilled mechanics will be glad to check it, and see what should be done to put it into perfect working order, and then it's up to you if you want them to go ahead.

You are under no obligation, but certainly everyone enjoys a car that is functioning right, and a motor tuneup will often do the trick.

All makes of cars are repaired at the Limerick garage--wheels aligned, frames straightened and wheels balanced.

Pottstown Mercury - 24 Aug 1953



When the Limerick Fire Company was planning the construction of a new firehouse, they decided to remain on the present land and purchase the adjacent Limerick Garage for future expansion. When negotiations began for the purchase of the garage, it was still owned by Fred Tyson but operated by Earl Schlichter. Settlement took place May 8, 1970.

Prior to the construction of the new firehouse in the early 1980s, the photo at bottom (left) shows the Limerick Garage shortly before it was torn down. The photo of Lonnie Wiseman (right) is how I remember him and his tow truck. They were always visible during my youth.



## Deaths



**Evelyn "Elaine" (Ludwig) Fillman** passed away on Monday, February 20, 2023. She was the wife of Ralph Weller Fillman, with whom she shared 65 years of marriage. Elaine, as known by many friends, lived in a house she and Ralph built on property owned by Brooke ancestors for five generations. She served as Secretary of our Society for many years and was the newsletter editor. Her family designated the Society to receive donations in her memory. We extend our deepest sympathy.

**Cindy L. (Laubmeier) Peterka** died February 23, 2023. She had only been a member for a few years, but she encouraged others to join our Society. We extend our sympathy to her husband, Cyprian (Zip) Peterka, her parents, sister and brother.

**Lori J. (Siegl) Breish**, 54, of Limerick, passed peacefully on April 21, 2023. Born in Norristown, she was the wife of Jim and the mother of Matthew and Ryan Breish. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Note: Matthew Breish's Eagle Scout Project involved digitizing historic records from many one-room schools in Limerick Township.



**Harry Weidenbaugh**, 99, died in April at the home of his daughter in New Jersey. Harry grew up in Limerick and lived on the farm at the corner of Ridge Pike and Lewis Road, the current location of the WAWA. From 1930 to 1939, Harry attended Washington School, which was across Ridge Pike. Harry was active in our Society for many years. In the early years of the Society, he was involved in refurbishing the Hunsberger House, which had been vacant for many years before the Society obtained it. He is remembered for helping at the Limerick Fire Company oyster and ham dinners for many years.

## The Hunsberger Award Presentation

by Jack Perry - Secretary

At the September 2022 Executive Board meeting, **Martin Witte** was honored with *The Hunsberger Award* for his outstanding dedication and contribution to the Society. Over the past 2-years the Society has faced unprecedented challenges with the pandemic restrictions. Throughout this period, Martin held the leadership team together as we moved toward more favorable circumstances. He is the ‘face’ of the Society and a fixture at every Wednesday open house and at virtually every Sunday open house. He is the trusted and respected interface with Limerick Township officials, neighboring historical societies, and the public. This award is a token of appreciation for his dedication and leadership. Congratulations, Martin!



<b>Donations</b>	We offer a special ‘thank you’ to each of our donors...
Doris Buckwalter Lehman Cober	“Stories Around the Buckwalter Table.” This is a collection of family histories and stories beginning with Francis Bouchwalder (1665 - 1723).
Alice Lang	Commemorative Plate: President & Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower; The President’s First Birthday in the White House, 14 Oct 1953 - Dwight D. Eisenhower Plate; The Presidents of the United States to Lyndon B. Johnson Plate; Bi-Centennial Issue - Royer’s Ford - 1776 - 1976; Bi-Centennial Guide; Upper Providence Township 1805- 1980; and, Royersford, Pennsylvania Centennial 1879 -1979 Pewter #254 Plate.
Herb Landis	Photo copy of 1955 Spring-Ford Football Team; local obituaries.
Limerick Town Center LLC	The “Publicker” sign that was seen on Main Street in Linfield.

## Future Meetings

### **June 12, 2023: Annual House Tour - The Speaker's House in Trappe**

The Society meeting for June will be our annual historic house tour. We will visit the Speaker's House, 151 W. Main St., Trappe, PA. Parking is behind the building. The tour will begin at 6:30 P.M. Frederick Muhlenberg was the First Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. His home, which was built in 1763, purchased by Muhlenberg in 1781 and occupied by his family in 1791, is being restored to its 18th century appearance.

### **July 10, 2023: Annual Society Picnic**

Beginning at 6:30 P.M. at the pavilion in Limerick Community Park on Swamp Pike, the picnic meal will be catered by the Society. Drinks and desserts will be supplied by the Officers and Directors. Please see information about voting on changes to the Society's Constitution (attached to this Newsletter). Member should review and be prepared to vote on the changes at the picnic meeting. Tables are available, but members can bring their own chairs.

### **August 14, 2012: To be announced.**

## Volunteer Service to LTHS

A special "thank you" is extended to our volunteers for 363 hours 'donated' during the first quarter of 2023. This does not include the many hours that **Martin** and **Jack Perry** have spent with activities concerning the William & Mordecai Evans House. Individual thanks is extended to:

**Anita Rogers** for allowing use of her clotheslines/clothespins to air treasured quilts on a sunny day.

**Bunny Dempsey** for continuing to inventory contents of archival boxes - she's up to #47!

**Jack Perry** for hanging 5 pictures for display in the Museum Room and repairing/painting the wall. His wife, **Sue Perry**, brought paint samples and matched the color perfectly. Thanks, Sue!

**Mattie Ebling** for picking up sticks in the yard and for **Martin Witte** chipping them. Additionally, Mattie Ebling completed the inventory of the large, long-drawer filing cabinet. Mattie is our 'go to' woman for countless tasks at the Hunsberger House.

## Volunteer Service - Thanks...continued

**Mary Ann Dailey** for researching and composing an Oral History Research Proposal, Historical Collection Policy, and revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws. Thanks to **all Officers and Board Members** who reviewed, edited and approved these documents. Also, Mary Ann has been adding archival sleeves to file cabinet documents and re-labeling all file folders.

After her medical convalescence, we welcome back **Helen Christman** and thank her for continuing to copy and file old obituaries.

Although **Doris Callow** has not been coming to the Hunsberger House on Wednesdays, she continues to call members to remind them to attend the monthly meetings and 'just keep in touch.'

And, we thank **Barbara Witwer** who orchestrates, assists with all volunteer activities at the Hunsberger House, and does extensive 'homework' beyond the hours spent on Wednesdays and Sundays.

## Recent Visitors

**Ruth Borneman** and her brother, **Robert Borneman**, (pictured right) visited the Hunsberger House on March 29th and brought a large brown envelope containing old obituaries and articles relating to Limerick Township.



Additional visitors since the first of the year included the following:

Jim Welsh, Pat Welch, Patrick Nelson, Walter Johnson, Holly Herman, Linda Irvin, Rob Guzzon, Tom Mogel, Ryan Briddes, Rich Peelman, Allison Eshleman, Margaret Wastell, Fay Copenhafer, Herb Landis, and Bryan Gottshall.

Our files contain much genealogical information for review...Visitors are always welcome!