

# Lybarger Linkages

Fall 2006

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Official Newsletter of the Lybarger Memorial Association  
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## 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting of the LMA was a major turning point for the organization. First of all, our president, John Lybarger of New Lexington, OH, could not come owing to disabling health problems. He asked that he be relieved of this office after over 21 years. Secondly, our treasurer, Genevieve Lybarger, John's wife, could not be present, as she must take care of John. She too asked to be relieved of her LMA office after 20 years as the treasurer. Moreover, a mover and shaker in the LMA, Jack Lybarger of Johnstown, PA, could not be present, as he had undergone major heart surgery early in the week.

However, the strength of the LMA was seen in that the business of the annual meeting went forward thanks to the 14 adults who were in attendance. The annual financial report was approved, a new president and treasurer were selected, and a person for the 2007 Distinguished Service Award was identified.

The new president is George W. Lybarger, 58, of Reynoldsburg (Columbus), OH, and the vice president is Bob Lybarger, 73, of Harmony, N.C. They were featured in the fall, 2004 issue of the newsletter as new members of the LMA board. George has already shown his commitment to the LMA by taking charge of the painting of the church. He has a cabin in nearby Berlin, PA that enables him to check in on the status of the church from time to time.

George's inaugural message: "I look forward to heading the LMA and I want to keep it going pretty much the way it is. I would like to get some new younger members active and going to the meetings and reunion. I also want to keep the older members. I do not see a need to change anything in a drastic manner unless something happens that we could not see."

Bob was written up in the fall, 2004 issue as a new board member and for his induction into the Military Engineer Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

## LMA FINANCIAL REPORT FY 2005-2006

The LMA finances are in good shape. Here are the details as of June 30, 2006, the end of the fiscal year:

### Income

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Membership dues                 | \$1,320.00   |
| Church Fund                     | 1,030.00     |
| Genealogy research and miscell. | 335.00       |
| Lybarger publications           | 59.00        |
| Interest on savings             | <u>35.55</u> |
| Total income                    | \$2,779.55   |

### Expenses

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Newsletter printing (2 issues) | \$ 619.69     |
| Newsletter postage (2 issues)  | 674.34        |
| P.O. Box rental and postage    | 159.35        |
| annual meeting, reunion        | <u>244.00</u> |
| Total expenses                 | \$1,701.78    |

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Beginning balance July 1, 2005 | \$6,707.98 |
| Total income FY 2005-06        | 2,779.55   |
| Total expenses FY 2005-06      | 1,701.78   |
| Net income                     | 1,077.77   |
| Balance as of July 1, 2006     | \$7,785.75 |

## NEW TREASURER FOR LMA

The new LMA treasurer is Mrs. Lillian "Lily" R. Engel. She is the sister of the president, George Lybarger. Their parents are Harry Smith Lybarger and Dorothy Mae Chaffee. Lily was born in 1954 in Painesville, OH. She handles commercial loans at the Citizens Bank in Erie, PA. Her two children are Amy and Robin. Her hobbies include various craft projects, especially sewing and antiquing.

Lily has opened a savings account at Citizens Bank of PA. All checks to the LMA, of any kind, should be made out to the Lybarger Memorial Association or LMA (see form, pg. 7). Please send your donation to Mrs. Lillian Engel at 2824 Arcadia Ave., Erie, PA 16506.

## SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS TO THE LMA

Floyd Lybarger of Illiopolis, IL sent in \$90.00, \$40.00 for dues including their 3 adult children and \$50.00 for the Church Fund. Floyd and his wife, Kathleen, have been regular attenders at LMA annual meetings.

DeLois Lee Waters, of Hawthorne, FL, gave \$50 for membership dues, the church fund and genealogical research. She attended the 2006 LMA annual reunion.

## OMISSION ACKNOWLEDGED

The spring issue of the newsletter failed to mention the \$100 donation to the LMA by David Lybarger of Plymouth, MA.

## READERS RESPOND

Dear Editor: April 29, 2006  
I received the Lybarger Linkages today and when I sat down this evening after church I noticed that two individuals, a Kathleen Lybarger and Michele Sims, both sent in my father's obituary [Lester L. Lybarger]. I can not express the shock of seeing it yet I was so very happy that these people filled in the gap.

I was my dad's primary caregiver for two years after my mother's passing. I have been so close to them and carry their namesake. So it has been such an honor to have had them as my parents and to be there for them when they both needed someone to provide that extra care.

I could not bring myself to send the obituary because of the grief that I was experiencing. I can only say that I am so very thankful to both Kathleen and Michele for serving our family in this manner. I am indebted to them.

Both my dad and I were planning on visiting the church in Bedford County, PA. He was proud to be a Lybarger and he was such a fine one. He is deeply missed by those who knew him.

Leslie L. Morgan  
Loami, IL

Dear Editor, May 20, 2006  
I would like the Lybarger Memorial Association to know how much I appreciate your efforts and the fine

work that you do. I noticed in the last newsletter that my membership expired in 2002, so here is a check to make up for the past five years. I am sure that the postage to Switzerland is additional.

Barbara Roy  
Sachselin, Switzerland

Dear Editor, Aug. 9, 2006  
I read with much interest Gary Hines' research. I especially like the obituaries and the article about the Nebraska reunion.

On my wish list is to visit Pennsylvania and the Allen and La Porte Counties, IN. I have been all over south-west Iowa, Nebraska and to Wilson's Creek outside Republic, MO, where George Washington Lybarger was injured during the Civil War.

Judy Lybarger Mayer  
P.S. Thank you for all the good work you do!

[Ed. note: this letter went on to tell of her visits to document and photograph cemeteries in Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Iowa where Lybarger ancestors are buried. She also sent obituaries for Roy Joe Lybarger, Paul A. Pennington, and Martha M. Brahmst. Judy, born 1946, is the daughter of Roy Joe Lybarger whose obituary is detailed on page 7.]

## LYBARGER DATA BASE MANAGER

Please note that John L. Lybarger, maintainer of the Lybarger genealogy database, has moved to Battle Creek, MI. He has shut down the Lybarger web site. However, if you have any family history information to contribute or genealogy questions to ask he can be contacted at J\_Lybarger@comcast.net.

If anyone is interested in creating and operating a Lybarger relations web site please e-mail the editor, Lee Lybarger, at lybarger@midohio.net.

## LYBARGERS IN THE NEWS

by Kathleen L. Romstedt

Nancy Lybarger of Newburgh, Indiana serves as the Executive Director or Historic Newburgh, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization and preservation of the downtown area of Newburgh, IN. In an article in the Newburgh Chandler Register at the

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beginning of National Preservation Month, she invited people from the tri-state area to join in projects and festivities conducted throughout the month of May.

The North Platte Telegraph reported that Kathy Lybarger of Alliance, Nebraska choreographed the talent portion of the Miss Nebraska 2006 Scholarship Pageant in June. In addition, she choreographed several dance numbers in a recent production of Beauty and the Beast for Alliance High School in April 2006.

David Lybarger of Somerset, Pennsylvania is the assistant manager for Penn DOT in District 9 in Somerset. He has represented them at public hearings in August to review the progress of a highway improvement project in Somerset County. He discussed the necessity of looking for extra funding for the project.

James Lybarger of Davenport, Iowa was named to the Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic. Laura Romstedt, the daughter of Karl and Kathleen (Lybarger) Romstedt graduated cum laude from Ohio State University June 2006 with a BA in human nutrition. She lives in Upper Arlington, OH.

In September, Julie M. Lybarger married Gary L. Scellin Jr. of Dupon, IL (on the Mississippi River just south of St. Louis). No further information is known.

The Burlington Post (Ontario) reported on Oct. 8th that Jorie Sharpe (dau. of Virginia Lybarger Patterson and granddaughter of Donald F. Lybarger) was in Louisiana on behalf of her local Junior League helping to rebuild homes and businesses in New Orleans. She joined more than 500 JL volunteers from around the world for the week-long project.

### **60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Manford and Ida Olive (Lybarger) Snedden of Cutler, IL celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 16, 2006 just in Pinckneyville, IL where they were married. Manford was born on July 23, 1918, and Ida Olive was Jan. 12. 1927. They have contributed to the LMA. They have one daughter, Joann Hatcher, who is the wife of Robert Hatcher. Manford is the brother of Floyd Lybarger who is a frequent participant at the LMA annual meetings and reunions.

### **ANOTHER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Rev. Everett and Mrs. Jeanne (Hill) Lybarger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June at Conway, AK. in the same area where he grew up. They celebrated in the First Nazarene Church in Conway where he was the pastor until he retired. . They have three daughters: Jeana Kathryn, Janie Karen, and Janet Kimberley.

Everett is the son of Other Everett Lybarger and the grandson of Robert Hiram Lybarger (1891-1984).

### **CHEATING DEATH OUT OF EULOGIES**

David Shribman, a columnist and executive editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, wrote in his May 30th, column that the deceased are spoken of fondly, passionately and lovingly at their funerals. He considers it a waste that it takes the death of our friends and relatives before we reflect on how much they mattered to us. He said, "What a waste that these reminiscences are said in sadness and grief rather than in joy. What a waste that the subject of all these recollections isn't standing right in front of us as we make them. "

Shribman referred to Art Buchwald, the humorist and political satirist, who is dying at age 80 of kidney failure. He is outlasting the time his doctors gave him to live. This has led him to put together a new art form, the pre-death eulogy, where friends, family, and associates visit him in the hospice in Washington, D.C. to give him tributes while he is still alive. Buchwald quipped, "I never realized dying was so much fun. People are coming and telling me how much they liked me. They are very happy they don't have to do it at a funeral." He likes the idea of cheating death out of the eulogy.

### **SAVE YOUR NEWSLETTERS**

Do not throw out your LMA newsletter. Instead, contact your local library or county historical society. They may want them for their genealogical or family history archives. The newsletters are sent to a few major libraries and genealogical libraries but many are not included. Most likely they are not sent to the one in your community.

## WHERE LYBARGERS ARE CONCENTRATED

In the 2005 spring issue of Lybarger Linkages there was an article describing the geographic concentration of Lybarger relations based on the Social Security Death Index, ZIP code data and LMA newsletter addresses. In each case Ohio had the greatest concentration followed by other midwestern states. Then came Pennsylvania, the original state from which Lybargers migrated after the Revolutionary War.

Recent information from the Ancestry.com web site (a major genealogical research organization) indicates that these concentrations go back to the 1800's based on census data. In 1840 between 9-13 families were concentrated in Ohio followed by Illinois with 4-8 families. Then came Pennsylvania and Missouri with 1-3 families with the surname of Lybarger.

The 1880 census reported that Ohio had between 92-182 Lybarger families followed by Illinois with 31-91 families. All other states had either 10-30 families, including Pennsylvania, Missouri and Iowa or they had none.

The 1920 census showed that Ohio had between 45-88 Lybarger surnamed families followed by Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri with between 16-44 such families. All others had 1-15 families or none.

## MISSOURI SENATOR MIKE LYBYER

The spelling of our surname is overwhelmingly Lybarger, but there are exceptions such as Lyberger and Lybyer. In the fall, 2004 issue an article featured Lynne Ann Vincent, wife of the Vice President of the U.S. and the fact that her mother was a Lybyer.

It has now come to light that there is another Lybyer who serves in the public arena. He is Michael Joe Lybyer of Higgins, MO, the son of Rhea F. Lybyer and Marjorie Belle. It was Michael's great great grandfather, Daniel S. P. Lybyer (1811-1889) who changed the spelling from Lybarger to Lybyer.

Michael Joe was elected to the MO House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1976 and then to the MO Senate in 1982 where he still serves. When he was a representative he introduced many bills notably pertaining to education, public safety, social services, capital improvements. As a state senator he has

introduced bills pertaining to taxes, conduct of judges, compensation of state officials.

Michael, born in 1947, graduated from The University of Missouri in 1969 and married Mary Jane Rockhill in 1981. They have a son, Michael Patrick. He is a member of the Baptist Church, a fraternal order, the U.S. Army Reserves, and he is a beef cattle farmer,

## ARCHIVING LYBARGER DOCUMENTS

As your editor of the newsletter I have been cleaning out almost 30 years of files pertaining to Lybarger history and relations. It is about time I embarked on this project given that I am now 72 years old and can take advantage of such housecleaning while I am of sound mind and body.

Critical LMA documents should be archived in places where they can be accessed by persons interested in doing family history research. The newsletter is already being sent to selected genealogical libraries and societies. Perhaps you are wondering where to archive family papers.

Criteria in selecting places to send documents include:

1. Size and set up of the facility: are they equipped to handle family documents? Are they places where genealogists do research?
2. Accessibility: are they easily reached via major transportation arteries?
3. Are they located where Lybarger relations were concentrated in the past and/or are presently living?
4. Is the facility near any historic buildings or cemeteries where Lybargers are buried?

With these criteria in mind three repositories have been identified. First, is the Pioneer Historical Society, 242 East John St., Bedford, PA 15522-1740 (corner of John and Bedford streets). Telephone 814-623-2011.

Their e-mail address is [history@bedford.net](mailto:history@bedford.net). Their web site can be found by googling the name of the society. This library is a depository of genealogical information. They will do searches for \$50. Being in Bedford makes it easily accessible from an exit off the Pennsylvania Turnpike. They are in the same county where Lybargers first established and where the historic Lybarger Lutheran Church and cemetery is located (Madley, Rt. 96 in Londonderry Township).

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The second place to send documents is the Ohio Historical Society (OHS), 1982 Velma Ave. Columbus, OH at the E. 17th St. exit off I-71. Web site is [www.ohiohistory.org](http://www.ohiohistory.org). They are important as they have a wide collection of genealogical and state historical materials. Ohio has the greatest concentration of Lybargers in the country. The OHS is also not far from the Knox County Library in Mt. Vernon, OH. via OH Rt. 3 where more Lybarger relations have been and are concentrated than in any single county in the U.S.

The OHS stipulates that persons wishing to make donations should first call them at 614-297-2573. They will want to know if the subject matter relates to Ohio history or a person or family with Ohio connections. They will also ask if the document has coherency with other materials, is an original resource, and is in good physical condition.

The third most important depository for documents is the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, IN. The ACPL has one of the greatest concentrations of genealogical materials in the country with over 31,540 titles. They are moving to newly expanded facilities in 2007 but they can be reached via their web site: [www.acpl.lib.in.us](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us). E-mail contact is [ask@acpl.info](mailto:ask@acpl.info). Their phone no. is 260-421-1200. Ft. Wayne is accessible via I-69.

#### **KATE S. LYBARGER 1943-2006**

It is with deep regret that the LMA announces the sudden death of Kate S. Lybarger on Aug. 12, 2006. She and her husband Earl attended the 2006 annual meeting of the LMA for the first time. She volunteered to assume the vacant position of treasurer. The officers were looking forward to working with her. She would have helped to bring new blood into the organization. An excellent replacement fortunately has been found.

The daughter of Vernon and Esther (Palmer) Spencer, Kate was born on Aug. 31, 1943 in Norwich, N.Y. She earned her bachelor of science in education in 1965 and a masters degree in 1986, both from Penn State. She was an elementary school teacher, and later a reading specialist in the public schools.

As a member of her United Methodist church she was in the senior choir, on the hospitality committee, in an

intercessory prayer group, a Bible study group, and an organizer for volunteers and drivers for a local day nursery and a volunteer driver. She was a certified master gardener. She is survived by her husband, Earl, her three children and their spouses, two sisters, and a brother.

#### **HELEN I. LYBARGER 1914-2006**

Helen I. Lybarger died on June 8, 2006 in Fort Collins, CO. Born on March 25, 1914 to William and Helen (Weed) Stark in Washington County, CO; she married Willis C. Lybarger on May 28, 1930. He preceded her in death in 1992.

Helen was a former resident of Sterling, CO and lived in the Timnath/Ft. Collins area since 1958. She was a school bus driver for 13 years. She was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Home Extension Club in Sterling, and the Daughters' of Union Veteran in Ft. Collins. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, knitting, and was an avid reader.

Surviving are her sons Robert C., Warren G., Larry W., Carter A, daughter, Elaine Geiser; and sisters Norva Wilson and Fern Randolph plus 11 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, and numerous great-great grandchildren. Thanks go to son Robert C. Lybarger for providing the obituary. He is the vice president of the LMA.

#### **MARTHELLA L. MASSARRO 1929-2006**

Marthella Massaro died in Wooster, OH on July 16, 2006. Born July 4, 2006 in Knox County, OH to Donald J. and Irma (Cotton) Lybarger, she worked as a beautician in Cleveland and then in Columbus, OH. She owned and operated shops in Phoenix, AZ, and in Mt. Vernon and Columbus, OH. She was also a professional dog groomer. She retired from the maintenance department of Wooster College (OH).

She planned her own funeral service that was conducted at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Wooster with the homily by a pastor from the Church of the Nazarene.

Her sister Marjorie Ann L. Shaffer and a brother Donald Gene Lybarger both of Knox County, OH, survive Marthella. Her husband Vincent "Vance" Massaro died 1981.

### **HELEN H. LYBARGER 1918-2006**

Helen Avon Heckerman Lybarger died on July 4, 2006 in Pemberville, OH. She was born April 12, 1918 and married Herbert Wesley Lybarger in January 1942. He was killed April 1945 in World War II and is buried at the U.S. Military Cemetery in the Netherlands.

Helen retired from teaching school in 1973. She was a member of the Ohio Education Association and a life member of National Education Association. She was past president of the Oregon-Jerusalem (OH) Historical Society; served on the board of the East Community Health Center; worked on delivering meals on wheels; was a member of the Oregon chapter of the AARP; and she was on the board of the Oregon Senior Center.

Her son Richard and his wife Betty plus 5 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and one great grandchild survive Helen. Richard is a member of the LMA and lives with his family in Florida.

### **NANCY B. LYBARGER 1935-2006**

Nancy C. Bland Lybarger died on June 21, 2006 in Galion, OH. Born Feb. 2, 1935 in Crestline, OH, she was the daughter of Jesse and Irene (Long) Bland. She is preceded in death by her husband, Robert Louis Lybarger, January 1980, and by a son Dennis Lybarger, Sr.

Nancy was a member of Fresh Faith Community Church in Mt. Gilead. She was a supervisor for 43 years at the former Atocall in Shelby. A grandson, Dennis Lybarger of Galion, a grand-daughter, and four great grandchildren survive her.

### **ETHEL MAY LYBERGER 1913-2006**

Ethel May Lyberger died on Feb. 4, 2006. In Woodland, CA. Born in Spokane, WA on Sept. 11, 1913, she was the oldest of 4 daughters of Ben Cummings and Lillie Rebecca Reed. After graduating from high school in Kendrick, ID in 1931 she moved back to Spokane, WA where she met James Lyberger whom she married in 1941. He had a military career that took them all over the world before ending up in Davis, CA.

Ethel was a member of the United Methodist Church, on the board of the Senior Center, and a long time member of the Soroptimist Club. An avid quilter, she won many awards for her quilts some of which were displayed at the state fair. She was also a member of the Lybarger Memorial Association.

She is survived by her sister Jewell, her children Karen, Dale, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

### **PAUL ARTHUR PENNINGTON 1918-2006**

Paul Pennington passed away on July 3, 2006 in Lebanon, OR. He was born in Liberal, KS, the son of Glenn D. and Hattie A. (Moody) Pennington. He was an aircraft mechanic in the Air Force during World War II including service during the Burma-China campaign. He married Norma Berry in 1947. They had 4 children: Paula, Cheryl, Marlene, and Lee Paul. He served from 1941-45.

Paul worked for plywood mills until he retired in 1980. He was active in two fraternal orders and was a past commander in the VFW. He liked to hunt, fish and bowl and work in his garden. His wife, 4 children, a brother and sister, plus 6 grandchildren and 11 great grand children survive him.

Paul's father, Glenn (1898-1983) was the 11th child of George Washington Lybarger (1838-1911) and Harriet M. Sargent. She died in 1898 when he was just 6 months old. His father could not care for a baby with so many other children in the family. Since the Pennington's lived nearby they offered to raise Glenn. Glenn never knew who his biological parents were until his brothers informed him when he was eleven.

Although never officially adopted, he changed his name to Pennington at the time of his marriage. The editor is thankful to Paul's wife, Norma, for sending in the information on her husband.

### **DOES THE BELL TOLL FOR YOU?**

Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in Mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

John Donne (1572-1631)

**MARTHA MARGUERITE BRAHMST 1913-2006**

Martha Brahmst died on July 30, 2006. Born in Tabor, IA on June 9, 1913, she was the third of 11 children of Joseph P. and Fannie Mae (Benedict) Lybarger. She and her husband, John Brahmst (died 1977), were the original owners of Niles Electric Co.

She was a member of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and an honorary member of Eastern Star. Martha is survived by three brothers, a sister, and by her son Robert and numerous grandchildren.

**ROY JOE LYBARGER 1916-2004**

Roy Lybarger died on June 7, 2004 in Oakland, IA. The son of Joseph P. and Fannie Mae (Benedict) Lybarger, he was born in Tabor, IA on Jan. 12, 1916 and. He served in the army in the Pacific Theater during World War II, 1941-45, and was awarded two Bronze Stars.

He and Arlene Marie Bailey were married on Aug. 5, 1945 and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1995. From them came three children, Judy, Roy Jr., and Fred.

They moved to Oakland, IA in 1961 where Roy became a USDA as a government meat inspector. Their interest in Lybarger genealogy took them on trips to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Nebraska in search of descendants and to attend family reunions. He was active in two fraternal orders, and two veterans organizations as well as the Nishna Heritage Museum.

**BETTE ANN ELLIOTT LYBARGER 1934-2005**

Elizabeth "Bette" Ann died on Nov. 13, 2005 in Anchorage, AK. She was born on Aug. 15, 1934 in Towner ND to Howard and May Elliott. She married Eugene L. Lybarger and moved in 1959 to Alaska where they raised their 4 children, Charles, Allen, Susan, and Sarah.

She was a dedicated Christian who helped to build and support their local church. She worked in a variety of jobs in their school district and as a medical transcriptionist. Her primary role and joy was a homemaker, mother and grandmother. Her husband, their children, 7 grandchildren and a brother and sisters survive her.

**CROSSING THE BAR**

By Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

Sunset and evening star  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;

For though from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.

7

**MEMBERSHIP AND BOOK ORDER FORM**

Full name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address with ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is check (or money order) payable to **Lybarger Memorial Association (or LMA)** for  
Dues 7/06-6/07 (\$10.00 per household) \_\_\_\_\_

Lybarger book of poems: no. of copies \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 7.00 (current members) or  
\$9.00 (nonmembers) = total cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to Lybarger Church Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to genealogical research \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK \_\_\_\_\_

Send form and check to Mrs. Lillian Engel, LMA Treasurer, 2824 Arcadia Ave., Erie, PA 16506