

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.

This record also lacks 1950 federal census data.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

Holmes, Elmer E.
1892 PA – 1971 PA



Elmer E. Holmes – from Find A Grave 194021640

YOU'LL agree with me that mention of the Air Service usually brings to mind a picture of an immaculately uniformed officer, proudly wearing his distinctive badge of wings on his left breast. That goes for the war period and also for the present. Probably

that's because we ordinary vets have never seen fliers in dungarees working on their ships.

Catastrophes, however, alter matters. It would be hard to believe that the group pictured on this page is composed of men of the Air Service, until we learn that they were survivors of one of the major transport casualties while our troops were being shipped over to the A. E. F. Their outfit, the 158th Aero Squadron, was among the 2,179 soldiers aboard the British ship *Tuscania* which was being used to transport American troops when she was torpedoed on February 5, 1918. Through the timely and heroic action of the officers and crews of three British destroyers, the loss of life was restricted to 230 men.

The snapshot we reproduce was loaned to us by Legionnaire Elmer E. Holmes of Lansford, Pennsylvania, with this letter:

"The picture I am sending was taken in Camp Morn Hill, just outside of Winchester, England, in March, 1918, and shows a bunch of men of the 158th Aero Squadron, survivors of the S. S. *Tuscania* torpedoed February 5, 1918, off the coast of Ireland.

"We set sail for France on January 23d on the *Tuscania* in a convoy of seventeen ships. Our squadron of 150 men lost 18. The survivors landed in Ireland, Scotland and England. This happy-looking gang had just been reunited at Camp Morn Hill.



Lacking the usual natty appearance of Air Corps men, these men are nevertheless of the 158th Aero Squadron. Here we see them at Camp Morn Hill, England, in the makeshift military-civilian garments they donned after their transport, the *Tuscania*, was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland on February 5, 1918

"You will note there is a varied assortment of uniforms—English sailor suits supplied by the sailors of the sub-chasers that picked us up, mixed with English civilian clothes and American uniforms. I have lost contact with these men and would certainly like to hear from those fellows still answering roll call."

For the information of Holmes and other survivors of this transport, we want to report that the National Tuscania Survivors Association was organized some years ago and each year on the anniversary of the torpedoing of the ship, February 5th, a reunion and memorial service are held. Paul L. Stewart of 132 Third Street, Baraboo, Wisconsin, is secretary.

"American Legion Monthly" vol. 19 no. 5 Nov 1935 page 35-36 -
file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/americanlegionmo195amer.pdf



Pennsylvania House of Representatives

ELMER E. HOLMES



Sessions

Session	Position	District	Party
1943-1944			Republican

Counties
Carbon

Biography

05/15/1892 - 12/13/1971

HOLMES, Elmer E., a Representative from Carbon County; born May 15, 1892 in Seek, Schuylkill County, Pa.; graduated, Temple University; corporal, 158th Aero Squadron, "S.S. Tuscania," United States Army (1918-1919, World War I); dental and medical supplies salesman; elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to the 1943 term; unsuccessful campaign for reelection to the House for the 1945 term; bakery owner; died, December 13, 1971 in Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania; interred, Odd Fellows Cemetery, Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

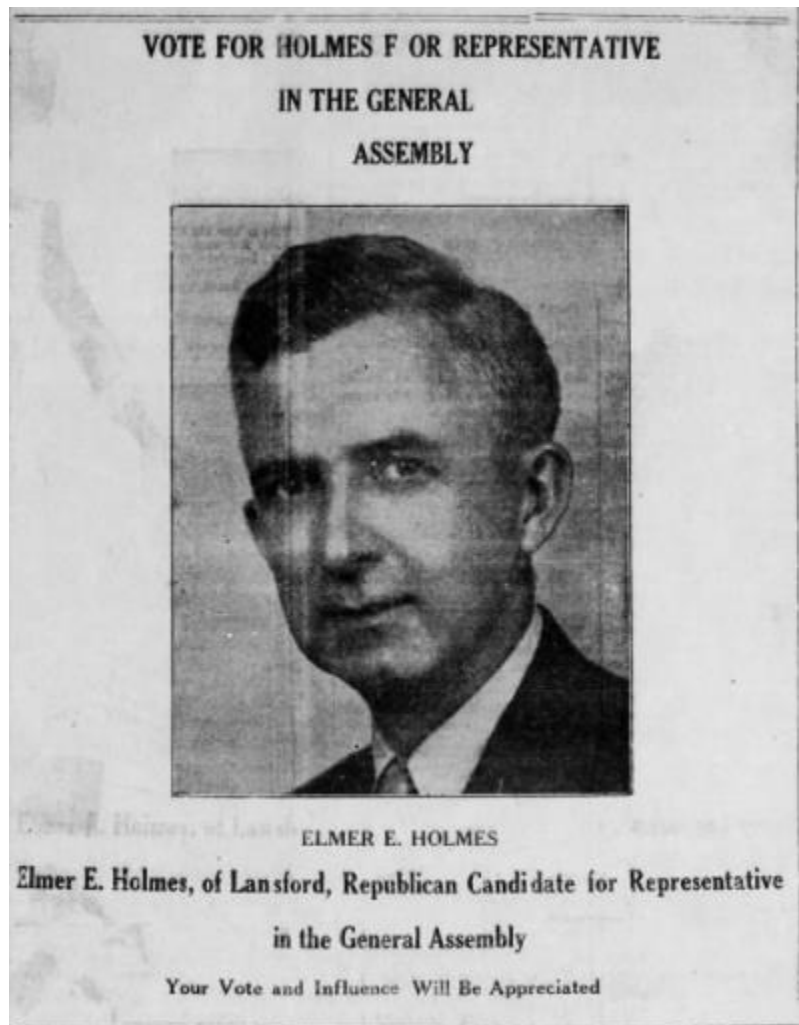
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/BiosHistory/MemBio.cfm?ID=1932&body=H>



HOLMES, Elmer E.

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<https://www.house.state.pa.us/BMC/Bios/PDF/1932.PDF>



"Mauch Chunk (PA) Times-News" 30 Oct 1942 p 7

WEDDING BELLS.

Caldwell-Holmes.

Miss Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Elmer E. Holmes, of Tamaqua, were married in the Welsh Congregational church by the Rev. G. H. Driver, pastor of the English Congregational church. Miss Alice Mitchell and T. Russel Caldwell were the attendants.

"Pottsville (PA) Republican & Herald" Thursday 26 May 1921 p 3

HOLMES ELMER E		12-30-71 X C 1 080 940
Pvt 158 Aero Sq		K 752 014
313 W Ridge St Lansford Pa		A 1 457 954
Sa 249 984	Died 12-13-71	T 461 282
Born 5/15/92		R
Rnl 11/22/17	Dia 3/19/19	Ct.525 880
		I
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7202-Rev. Sept., 1920		INDEX CARD 2-12909



ELMER HOLMES
... looking over convention invitation

Carbon Man Recalls Day Troopship Was Sunk by U-Boat 50 Years Ago

The date Feb. 5, 1918, 50 years ago next Monday, will always bear special significance in the life of Elmer Holmes of 313 W. Ridge St., Lansford.

A World War I doughboy on his way to Europe, Holmes was among the 2,156 American soldiers aboard the HMS Tuscania when she was torpedoed and sunk the night of Feb. 5, 1918, by the German submarine UB-77 off the coast of Ireland.

Recalling his experience last night, Holmes said he remembers going over the side with other Army personnel and members of the crew and then being hauled in one of the many lifeboats that had been put overboard.

He also recalled that his lifeboat rolled over and he was tossed back in the water, where he remained until picked up by a destroyer accompanying the 14-ship convoy.

Golden Anniversary Dinner

Survivors of the Tuscania, who have since formed the National Tuscania Survivors Association, will hold a 50th anniversary reunion tomorrow night in the Cudworth Post Memorial Building, Milwaukee, Wis.

Holmes said he would like to attend, but added his age (75 years) and the distance are a bit too much for him at this time. Since the national unit was founded, however, he has attended three reunions, the last being about five years ago. At that time, he said, 12 members of his 150-member squadron were in attendance.

This year's business meeting will include the election of new officers and a discussion regarding future anniversaries. The invitation and announcement of the reunion received by Holmes indicated this might be the last reunion.

Holmes said most of the men aboard the Tuscania were from the Midwest, but he added that Price, a native of Lansford now residing in Newport News, Va., and Roy Oplinger of Northampton R. 1 and Dr. John Buchanan of Easton, both retired, were among the survivors.

Holmes said he sees the two Lehigh Valley survivors periodically and doubts if they will be in attendance tomorrow night.

In reviewing the sinking of the Tuscania, Holmes said that after he was picked up by the destroyer he was taken to Dublin, Ireland, where he stayed about two months, and then onto England and France, where he spent an additional 19 months. He, Oplinger and Price were at the time members of the 158th Aero Squadron, while Dr. Buchanan was a member of the 100th Aero Squadron.

Two hundred and twenty-six

American soldiers died when the *Tuscania* went down, according to a history of the sinking prepared by Leo V. Zimmerman of Milwaukee, historian of the National *Tuscania* Survivors Association.

The history, which was sent by the association to all survivors, is a prized possession of Holmes.

The 25-page booklet contains an account of the ship's departure, from the time it left Hoboken, N. J., on Jan. 25, 1918, until it was sunk within sight of the Scotland coast.

It also contains a map showing the *Tuscania*'s position in the convoy and a variety of pictures, including several of the troopship and others in the convoy; a map showing the exact point of the sinking and photographs of the German submarine; burial services for the victims and a monument erected by the U. S. Government near Islay, Scotland, in memory of those who perished.

The account also contains some excerpts from the log of the submarine UB-77, which was commanded by Lt. Capt. Wilhelm Meyer. The submarine left Borkum, Germany, Jan. 29 and arrived in the North Channel off the north coast of Ireland Feb. 5.

The log shows Capt. Meyer spotted the approaching convoy at 4:50 p.m. and cruised with the ships for more than an hour to obtain the speed and course of the convoy. It also said his target was the *Tuscania* and that after locating the troop carrier, decided at 6:05 p.m. to attack.

At 6:40 p.m., according to the submarine's log, the first torpedo was fired, and immediately thereafter a second torpedo was released from 1,200 meters. 10 seconds later a very violent explosion was felt and told us we had hit the target," Capt. Meyer wrote in the log.

The first torpedo hit between the engine room and stoke hole on the starboard side, killing the crew on duty and causing the *Tuscania* to heel over 8-10 degrees and swing to starboard. The second torpedo missed.

The word to abandon ship was sounded at 8:40 p.m., and an hour later the liner slipped below the surface, the historical account related.

The German submarine escaped and returned to Bremerhaven, Germany, on Feb. 21 with one transport to its credit.

Other details in the booklet include comments by personnel of the British destroyers that picked up survivors, the helmsmen aboard the submarine and of some of the crew of the *Tuscania*.

The historical account concludes with a detailed report on funeral services for some of the victims whose bodies were found later washed ashore.



This is the troopship *Tuscania*, sunk by German U-Boat 77.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 2 Feb 1968 p 13

Lansford Man Reported Lost.

A report gained circulation today to the effect that Elmer Holmes, a well known Lansford boy, and a member of the 158th Aero Squadron, was on the torpedoed Tuscania. The report says he is among the missing. He is well known in this region.

"Pottsville (PA) Republican & Herald" 8 Feb 1918 p 6

Panther Creek Soldier Safe

Special to The Inquirer.

TAMAQUA, Pa., Feb. 9.—There was great rejoicing throughout the Panther Creek Valley this morning when it became known that Elmer Holmes and Floyd J. Price, of Lansford, attached to the 158th Aero Squadron, had escaped from the torpedoed Tuscania, the following cablegram having been received by Mrs. Robert Mitchell, of Lansford, a sister of Holmes: "Price and myself safe, Elmer Holmes." As soon as the news was learned the American Hose Company, of Lansford, of which the boys were members, held a demonstration.

"Philadelphia (PA Inquirer" 10 Feb 1918 p 8

"I am sending you another card which will show you exactly how I looked when I got away from the ship, or rather when I landed. The other fellow is Elmer Holmes, of Lansford. I will have some story to tell you when I get home, and I hope that that won't be more than a couple of years."

Floyd Price, the other Lansford PA man aboard Tuscania, sent a letter to William McGorry & obviously a photograph of him & Elmer Holmes – "Philadelphia (PA) Inquirer" 29 Mar 1918 p 2

Tuscania Survivors Home.

Lloyd Price and Elmer Holmes, two of the ambulance boys who were on the ill-fated Tuscania, when it was sunk, have arrived at their homes in Lansford from England.

Floyd Price & Elmer Holmes come home – "Pottsville (PA) Republican" 17 Mar 1919 p 2

TO ATTEND REUNION OF TUSCANIA SURVIVORS

Elmer Holmes and Floyd Price, of Lansford, who were picked up after the transport ship Tuscania had been torpedoed by a German submarine during the World War will attend the 15th annual reunion of the Nation Tuscania Survivors Association which will be held in Chicago on Feb. 4 and 5.

Captain John M. Smith, captain of the British destroyer that picked up Holmes and Price as well as Captain Wilhelm Mery, commander of the German U-boat 77 which sank the Tuscania will attend the reunion.

Captain Wilhelm Meyer did not attend (Adolph Hitler didn't think that was a good idea) – "Pottsville (PA) Republican" 17 Jan 1933 p 9

Received Letter From German U-Boat Captain

Elmer E. Holmes, investigator for the Carbon County Institution District is in receipt of a letter from Dr. Meyer, U-boat captain, who sank the American transport Tuscania off the Irish coast in 1918 with a loss of 295 lives. It was signed Heil Hitler, followed by Dr. Meyer's signature.

The letter was in response to a Christmas card sent to Dr. Meyer by Mr. Holmes. Dr. Meyer thanked him for the receipt of the card and wished him happiness in the future. Dr. Meyer who is still in the service, was 29 years of age when he sank the Tuscania, which was being convoyed by 18 ships. Mr. Holmes was in the water about an hour when rescued by a lifeboat.

The survivors of the Tuscania meet yearly. They try to create an anti-war sentiment. Dr. Meyer was invited to the Chicago meet in 1935, but was refused permission by the German government.

The U-boat is a stealthy thing, and regardless of convoys they sneak through at times and torpedo their object of attack.

Christmas card exchange between Holmes & UB-77 Captain Meyer – "Mauch Chunk (PA) Times-News" 30 Jan 1940 p 1

State Legislator Survived Sinking

Of Troopship Tuscania, Sent
to Botom 25 Years
Ago Today

State Assemblyman Elmer E. Holmes, Lansford, Carbon county's representative, is one of the survivors of the Tuscania, a U. S. troop ship sunk during World War No. 1, whose anniversary is being celebrated today.

Mr. Holmes had in past years attended the Tuscania Survivors Assn. annual get-together but due to traveling conditions and the press of present duties he was unable to attend this year's convention which is being held in Chicago today.

The Tuscania was the only U. S. troop ship to leave American shores to be the victim of a German U-boat. It was sunk Feb. 5, 1918, off the coast of Ireland and carried at the time of the torpedoing 2,400 soldiers.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 5 Feb 1943 p 32

Elmer Holmes, Lansford, Ex-State Representative

Elmer E. Holmes of 313 W. Ridge St., Lansford, a former Carbon County representative in the State Legislature, died Monday in Pottsville Hospital. He was 79.

He served one term in the Legislature (1943-1944) and was a deputy sheriff under former Carbon County Sheriff Charles D. Neast.

He was employed at one time by the State Public Utility Commission and was a dental supply salesman until retiring in 1960.

An Army veteran of World War I, he was one of the survivors of the Tuscania, a United States troopship that was sunk

off the coast of Ireland by a German U-boat on Feb. 5, 1918.

The ship was carrying 2,156 American troops, 226 of whom were lost.

Holmes was picked up by one of the destroyers accompanying the 14-ship convoy.

Born in Coaldale, he was a son of the late John E. and Hannah (Gallagher) Holmes.

He was a member of the English Congregational United Church of Christ, Lansford.

He held a life membership in the Lansford Patriotic Order of the Sons of America and was a 50-year member of the American Fire Co., Lansford.

His wife, the former Esther Caldwell, died in 1949.

Surviving are two daughters, Ann, wife of William E. Mitchell of Mahanoy City, and Mary Jane, wife of Paul Gomes of Naples, Fla.; a son, Lt. Col. Robert A. Holmes, with the Army Medical Corps at Tripler Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii; two sisters, Mrs. Kate Mulderick of Washington, D.C., and Myrtle, wife of Gerald Doherty of Wilmington, Del., and nine grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Holmes Funeral Home, 200 E. Bertsch St., Lansford. Calling hours will be 7-9 p.m. Wednesday.

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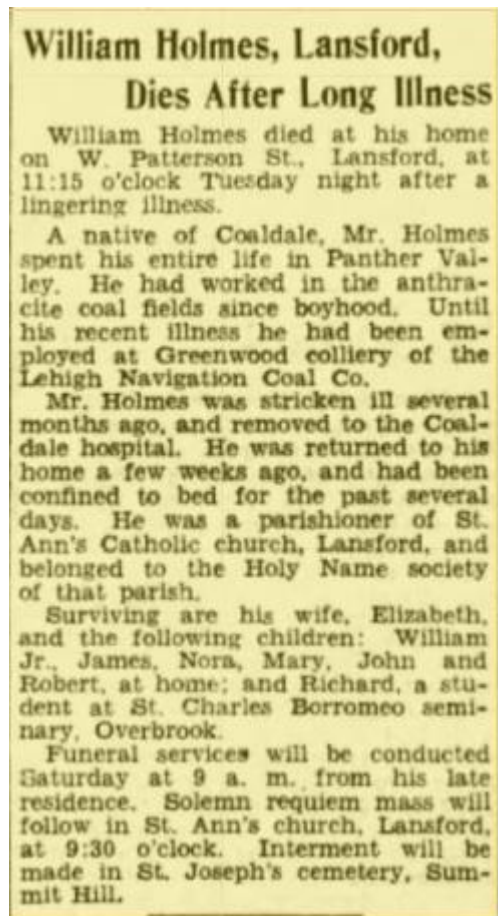
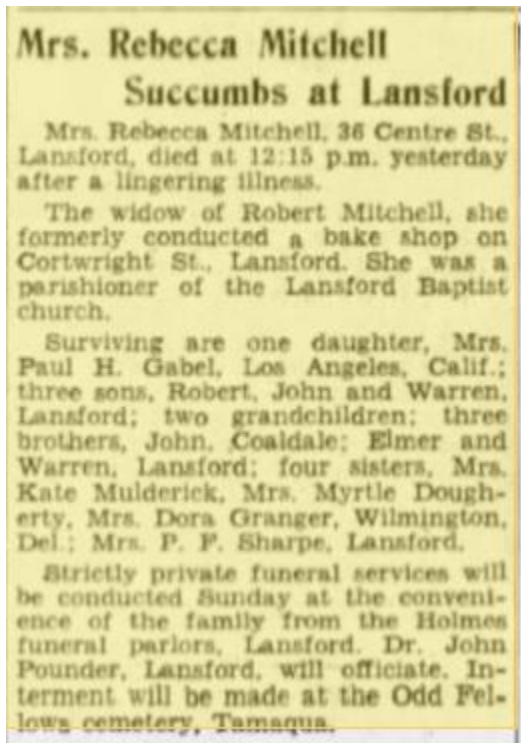
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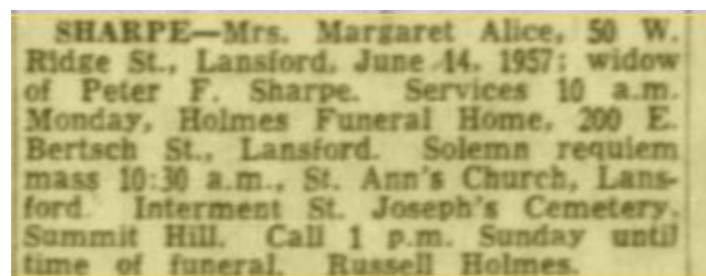
"Pottsville (PA) Republican-Herald" Tuesday, 14 Dec 1971 p 2

Lt. Col. Robert Holmes of the Army Medical Corps returned to Hawaii after visiting his father Elmer Holmes, a patient in Pottsville Hospital following major surgery. Col. Holmes was recently credited with his Army medical team for the recovery from an illness of Cambodian Premier Lon Nol in Hawaii. The Premier was a patient in Tripler Army Hospital after suffering a stroke.

Cambodian leader Lon Nol had taken power in a coup against the monarchy, set up the Khmer Republic, then fled Cambodia when the Khmer Rouge took power in a 1970 coup. He spent some time in Hawaii afterwards. "Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 23 May 1971 p 28



Left: Obituary of sister Rebecca Marian Holmes Mitchell – "Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Saturday, 31 May 1941 p 19 – right: obituary of brother William Victor Holmes – "Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 22 Dec 1938 p 7



Obituary of sister Margaret Alice Holmes Sharpe – "Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 17 Jun 1957 p 8

Richard Holmes Succumbs to Ills

Richard B. Holmes, for the past three years a janitor in the West Ward school building in Lansford, died at the Palmerton hospital at 6.30 o'clock last night, following an illness from complications. He was admitted to the hospital on Friday and was 51 years old.

Mr. Holmes, who resides at 410 West Bertsch street, Lansford, was for many years a conductor on the trolley line in Lansford. He was a native of Coaldale and lived in the Panther Valley all of his life.

Surviving him are his wife, Elizabeth, nee Day, Holmes; these children, Thomas, Boyd, James, Lois, Betty, May and Agnes, all at home; four brothers, John of Coaldale, William, Warren and Elmer, all of Lansford; and these sisters: Mrs. Alice Sharpe, Mrs. Rebecca Mitchell, Lansford; Mrs. Doris Grainger, Wilkes-Barre; Mrs. Kate Mulderick, Wilmington, Del.; Mrs. Myrtle Dougherty, Wilmington.

Funeral arrangements were not completed last night.

Kathryn H. Mulderick

Mrs. Kathryn H. Mulderick, 87, formerly of 1812 N. Lincoln St., Wilmington, died Monday at the Wildwood Nursing Center, Bethesda, Md., after a long illness.

The widow of Cornelius Mulderick, she had lived for the last 6 years with a son, Elmer R., of 8609 Bells Mill Rd., Potomac, Md.

She leaves two other sons, Edward of Wilmington Manor and Frank of Wilmington; a sister, Mrs. Gerald P. Doherty Jr. of Wilmington, nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Left: Obituary of brother Richard Boyd Holmes – "Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 19 Feb 1936 p 20 –
Right: Obituary of sister Kathryn Holmes Mulderick – "Wilmington (DE) Morning News" 24 Sep 1975 p 28

HOLMES—Mrs. Esther C., 313 W. Ridge St., Lansford. April 11, 1949. Funeral 2 p. m. Thursday from the Russel Holmes funeral home, 200 E. Bertsch St., Lansford. Rev. Thomas J. Williams officiating. Interment Odd Fellows cemetery, Tamaqua. Viewing 7 to 9 p. m. Wednesday at the Holmes funeral home. Russel Holmes.

Obituary of wife Esther Caldwell Holmes - "Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 13 Apr 1949 p 32

Elmer Holmes, of Lansford, investigator of Talbot relief applications in lower Carbon county, spent yesterday transacting business at Wilkes-Barre.

"Hazleton (PA) Standard-Speaker" 20 Apr 1933 p 8

Ann H. Mitchell

April 17, 2016

Ann H. Mitchell, 89, of Naples, Fla., passed away April 17 at Physicians Regional Medical Center, Naples.

Born Jan. 19, 1927, she was a daughter of the late Esther and Elmer Holmes.

She grew up on Ridge Street in Lansford, where she would eventually meet her beloved husband, Bill. The two married in 1948 and moved to State College, where Ann played an important part in helping her husband pursue his degree from Penn State University. After Bill's graduation, the couple moved to Mahanoy City, where they would live for many years.

While raising her two children, Ann worked as a crossing guard at Mahanoy City Junior High School and as a receptionist at a local doctor's office. She looked forward to spending time with family and friends at get-togethers where she would always bring her famous deviled eggs. Ann was a true Penn State football fan and loved to cheer for the Nittany Lions while sitting in the stands at Beaver Stadium each fall.

In 1990, after Bill retired as music teacher and band director at Mahanoy Area High School, the couple moved to Naples, Fla. Ann and Bill would drive to the beach on Central Avenue where they would spend their days on the sand and watch the sunset, living the dream they once shared together. In her later years, Ann loved to

read and watch movies on the Hallmark channel. She could be seen riding her bike to the pool, where she would swim and relax in the Florida sunshine.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William E. Mitchell; son, Robert B. Mitchell; granddaughter, Melissa L. Mitchell; brother, Robert A. Holmes.

Ann is survived by a son, William H. Mitchell, Punta Gorda, Fla.; sister, Mary Jane Holmes Gomes, Naples, Fla.; nieces and nephews; other family and friends.

Ann will be buried next to her husband in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville. A private family ceremony will be held in Florida.

*Sign the guest book at
republicanherald.com*

"Pottsville (PA) Republican & Herald" Sunday 24 Apr 2016 p A14

Medical Student, Beauty Queen Announce Troth

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Holton, Wehnwood, Blair County, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Gwendolyn Rae, to Robert Holmes, son of Elmer Holmes, W. Ridge St., Lansford.

The bride-elect is a student in the University of Minnesota and was runnerup in the Miss Minnesota beauty contest two years ago.

Holmes, a Lansford High School and University of Pennsylvania graduate, attended Franklin and Marshall College and is a medical student in the Temple School of Medicine, Philadelphia.

An August wedding is planned.

Engagement of son Robert Albert Holmes to Gwendolyn Rae Holton – "Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 14 Apr 1958 p 8



Burned-Out Families Learn Lessons, Ache of Starting Over

By JOHN ARNOLD

Herald Staff Writer

NAPLES — Mary Jane Gomes, her clear, candid eyes brimming with an unspoken emotion, poked through the ashes of her home to salvage her grandmother's iron.

With incredible luck, the first shovelful of cinders she sifted held the only one of the treasured family heirlooms that would have been likely to escape the fire that devastated the Gomes home in the pre-dawn of March 7.

"I started where I thought it might be," Mrs. Gomes said, holding the iron, once heated to press the family wash in Pennsylvania two generations ago.

THE IRON, caked with flaking ash, was the only thing the Gomes' managed to save.

Friday, fire victim Harry Hausmann was worried about the family airedale, Homer, which suffered from smoke inhalation in the fire that destroyed the Hausmanns' Golden Gate home March 10.

Homer, a feisty, trusted watchdog, was the only possession saved for the Hausmanns from the blaze that burned their home virtually to the ground. Two firemen were overcome by smoke.

BOTH FAMILIES, their possessions accumulated in the span of lifetimes and wiped out in minutes, learned similar lessons from their personal disasters.

Paul Gomes, a Naples contractor whose family ancestors were among the original settlers of Collier County, says ruefully that he made much the same mistake — underinsuring a house worth \$60,000 for about \$25,000.

The Gomess had just finished the renovations that had turned the dwelling they bought 5½ years

ago into the kind of house they'd always longed to live in.

"IT WAS JUST an oversight on my part," Gomes says with sad hindsight. He had added three rooms and a carport — decorated with painstakingly acquired cypress planks.

In the days following the morning when friend Jack Bliss met them at the end of their drive on Goodlette Road on their return from a trip to Pennsylvania to tell them their house burned down, Paul Gomes found how hard it is to conduct a business without the records — even the telephone number file — he lost in his home office.

Gomes found out something else, too, — that new county zoning for his three-acre lot requires at least five acres to enable him to rebuild there and in order to use the septic

tank that provided the couples' home with sanitation.

UNPERTURBED, Gomes plans to rebuild in Golden Gate on a three-acre lot he owns there — "probably in concrete block, this time," he says, now that he knows how easily lumber can burn.

Until that time the couple will live in a mobile home, "that's getting smaller every day," Gomes says.

With the construction business down, Gomes is not only taking a hefty loss on the house, but finds that seasonal rents are sky-high. He can't afford an apartment.

Gomes looks at the pile of ash, block and lumber that is the home he built with his own hands. "The only thing you can do is start over," he says, and somehow manages a smile.

His daughter Mary Jane Holmes Gomes & husband Paul — "Miami (FL) Herald" 16 Mar 1976 p 133

Paul Gomes Sought Solitude

'Dream House' Goes Up Next To Unwanted I-75

By MARY ELLEN HAWKINS
Staff Writer

For a number of years now there has been much concern about the problems of growth in Collier County.

But how does growth affect the average citizen who possibly hasn't paid all that much attention to what takes place in governmental meetings and who may be only vaguely aware of the controversies between the opponents and proponents of growth?

Two such people are Paul Gomes and his brother-in-law, Joe Pike.

The Gomes family lives just off Goodlette Road away from

fence that will mark the I-75 right-of-way.

The thought that their property may have commercial value apparently hasn't occurred to the two families.

"We're very upset," said Mrs. Gomes. "We didn't know that was the route for I-75 until we found out by accident." She said the middle-aged Pikes had worked all their lives toward building their house. It is their first and they have put all their savings in it, she said.

Mrs. Gomes said she and her husband had not followed news accounts telling the probable location of the interstate high-

way.

But even if they had, they still might have a problem.

Take Ray Keithley. He is in charge of The State Department of Transportation's construction and maintenance office here.

Keithley lives on a five-acre tract in the same area. His 3,000 square foot house is on the east side of the Golden Gate Canal, while the Gomes and Pike properties are west of the canal.

Keithley said he thought when he built his house that I-75 would be located several miles away.

the crowded urban area of the city. But when Gomes learned approximately a year ago that a condominium development will be built near him, he resolved to move farther east. So he bought six acres on 64th Street S.W. in Unit 29 of Golden Gate and let his brother-in-law have half of it.

There, the two families thought, they wouldn't have other houses too close to them and Pike, who captains the sight-seeing catamaran at Marco Island, planned to grow his own vegetables.

The Pikes moved a trailer to their property and are living in it while their three-bedroom, two-bath Michigan home is being constructed.

Recently, Mrs. Pike noticed some men driving stakes on the Gomes property.

They told her the stakes mark the right-of-way for I-75.

A 78-foot canal easement and 342 feet along the back of Gomes' property are wanted for the highway. The parcel originally was 660 feet deep, including the canal easement and a 30-foot street easement on the front.

So Gomes will have a parcel of land that is 210 feet deep right next to I-75. The Pike house will be 50 feet from the

Colonel Robert Albert Holmes MD, United States Army Retired was born on May 3, 1933 in Lansford, Pennsylvania. Dr. Holmes passed away peacefully with his family surrounding him on Saturday, March 31, 2011. Dr. Holmes is survived by his wife of 53 years, Gwendolyn Holton Holmes. Known to many as "Bob", he is also survived by his daughter, Allison Ann Holmes and her husband, Patrick Porter Stewart of Albuquerque; sons, Major Robert Clark Holmes, USAF, and his wife, Tamy Holmes of Louisville, Kentucky and Bruce Mitchell Holmes and his wife, Rebecca Shonfeld Holmes of Albuquerque; grandchildren, Annie Elizabeth, Owen Mitchell, Sarah Grace and Margaret Ryan Holmes. Dr. Holmes is further survived by his sisters, Ann Mitchell and Mary Jane Gomes both of Naples, Florida; sister and brother-in-law, Bonnie and David Holten MD of Albuquerque; and many nieces and nephews in Florida, Texas, and Washington. Dr. Holmes is preceded in death by his parents, Ester Caldwell and Elmer E. Holmes. Bob graduated from Lansford High School and turned down an appointment to the United States Military Academy to study at the University of Pennsylvania where he played football and earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry and zoology. Bob received his medical degree from Temple University, in Philadelphia. Bob was a board certified Internist. As an Army physician Dr. Holmes practiced at several United States Army hospitals all over the world including; Germany, Hawaii, Kentucky, Texas, Maryland, Virginia, California, New Mexico and Washington, DC. Dr. Holmes was the Chief Medical Officer of the Sandia Base Hospital, Tripler Army Medical Center, Assistant Chief of Staff, Walter Reed Medical Center and the Director of the Rader Clinic at Ft. Myer Virginia. During his tenure as a military physician he treated many notable patients including First Lady Mamie Eisenhower, General Omar Bradley, General George C. Marshall, Premier Lon Nol of Cambodia, King Hussein of Jordan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig. However, more importantly, he honorably cared for untold soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen returning from conflict and military service, as well as their families. Colonel Holmes was the official doctor of the United States Senate as well as the attending physician for the National Symphony Orchestra for both domestic and overseas travel. Among his many military decorations, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit. After retiring from the United States Army, Dr. Holmes was the Medical Affairs Director for ARAMCO in Saudi Arabia, Vice President of Medical Affairs for Tricare, and the Medical Director of FHP New Mexico. Bob retired after over 35 years of medicine. Services will be on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at French - Lomas Chapel. Bob will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Albuquerque Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (ALBUMOAA) P.O. Box 5071, Albuquerque, NM 87185-5070 on behalf of the Wounded Warriors Project.

From the Find A Grave record of his son, Robert Albert Holmes - #87979210

Name: Elmer E. Holmes

Name variations: Birth name was James Elmer Holmes. When asked for his middle initial, he'd write an "E" but it stood for Elmer.

Military:

On Tuscania: 158th Aero Squadron - private

Serial number: 249,984

Entered service from: Lansford, Carbon PA

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Elmer E. Holmes

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": mother Anna Holmes, 400 W. Berch (also Bertch) St., Lansford PA

Returned from war on: "Mexican" Feb 1919

Sailed on return ship as: as Elmer E. Holmes (Fold3 indexed as Egbert M. Holmes, but Elmer E. - could be read as M. - Holmes on original form)

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: mother Mrs. Hannah Holmes, 400 W. Bertson [Bertsch] St., Lansford PA (cpl, 158th Aero Sq)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Elmer E. Holmes - b. 15 May 1892 Seek PA; res: 400 Bertsch Ave, Lansford PA. Single. Merchant for self in Lansford PA. Tall & slender.

National Tuscania Survivors Association 1939 roster: 313 W. Ridge St., Lansford PA

World War II draft registration (1942): as Elmer --- Holmes - b. 15 May 1892 Seek PA; res: 313 W. Ridge St., Lansford, Carbon PA. NOK Mrs. Esther Holmes, same address. Employed at Scranton Dental, 310 (Ardmore?), Scranton PA. Height: 5'3" – 137 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 22 Nov 1917

Discharged 19 Mar 1919

Address: 313 W. Ridge St., Lansford PA

Rank/unit: private, 158th Aero Squadron

Birth & death:

Born: 15 May 1892 Seek, Schuylkill PA (obituary: Coaldale, Schuylkill PA)

Died: 13 Dec 1971 Lansford (or Palmerton), Carbon PA (obituary: died in Pottsville Hospital - Pottsville is in Schuylkill Co. PA)

Find A Grave record: 194021640 – photo – presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Burial location: Tamaqua, Schuylkill PA

Cemetery: Odd Fellows

Tombstone:

Father: John Eugene Holmes, 20 Jun 1853 Summit Hill, Carbon PA – 29 Jan 1926 Lansford, Carbon PA. Son of Adley Holmes & Rebecca R. Scott. Buried in Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery, Summit Hill, Carbon PA.

Find A Grave: 113721685

Mother: Hannah Gallagher Holmes, 1 Aug 1854/1855 Coaldale, Schuylkill PA – 12 Apr 1935 Lansford, Carbon PA. Buried in Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery, Summit Hill, Carbon PA.

Find A Grave: 113721734

Parents' marriage: 1875

Spouse: Esther Caldwell Holmes, 22 Feb 1899 Lansford, Carbon PA – 11 Apr 1949 Coaldale, Schuylkill PA. Daughter of Robert Caldwell & Annie Griffith, both b. in Coaldale PA. Died in the Coaldale State Hospital of hypertensive cardio renal [illegible] disease. Resident of 313 W. Ridge St. Buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Tamaqua, Schuylkill PA.

Spouse Find A Grave: 206851307

Marriage:

Children:

- Ann Holmes Mitchell, 19 Jan 1927 Lansford, Carbon PA – 17 Apr 2016 Naples, Collier FL. Listed as Mrs. William Mitchell of Mahanoy City PA in Dec 1971. Obituary in the “Pottsville (PA) Republican & Herald” Sunday, 24 Apr 2016 p A14 copied above. Married to William (Bill) E. Mitchell (19230-2006, F: 17926647) in 1948. He had served in the US Navy in WWII. Buried in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, Lebanon PA. F: 161806663.
- Mary Jane Holmes Gomes, 20 Dec 1937 PA - . Listed as Mrs. Paul Gomes of Naples FL in Dec 1971. Articles about their houses & house fire are copied above.
- Robert Albert (“Bob”) Holmes. A lieutenant colonel, stationed at Army Medical Corps, Tripler Medical Center, Honolulu HI in Dec 1971. Was a doctor & an Army colonel, who sometimes treated famous people. His biography from his Find A Grave record (copied above) details his achievements. Husband of Gwendolyn Rae Holton, whom he married in 1958, as found in the “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” 14 Apr 1958 p 8. Buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Arlington VA. F: 87979210

Siblings: James Elmer was the 2nd-youngest child. His mother reported giving birth to 12 children as of 1900 with 9 living – and to 12 children as of 1910, with 10 living.

- Rebecca Marian Holmes Mitchell, 23 Dec 1875 Coaldale, Schuylkill PA – 30 May 1941 Lansford Co. PA. Wife of Robert Mitchell (b. 1873). Married 11 Nov 1896 Summit Hill, Carbon PA. Obituary in the “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” 31 May 1941 p 19 copied above. Husband preceded her in death. Survived by daughter, 3 sons, 3 brothers & 4 sisters. Was a bake shop proprietor. Buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Tamaqua, Schuylkill PA [same as brother Elmer] but not on Find A Grave as of 5 Mar 2021.
- John H. Holmes, 3 Jun 1876 Seek, Schuylkill PA – 21 Jan 1955 North Manheim, Schuylkill PA. Husband of Mary A. Died of prostate cancer. Buried in Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery, Summit Hill, Carbon PA [where parents are buried] but not on Find A Grave as of 5 Mar 2021.
- Margaret Alice Holmes Sharpe, 19 Jul 1879 Coaldale, Schuylkill PA – 14 Jun 1957 Lansford, Carbon PA. Wife of Peter F. Sharpe (1879-1939, F: 146210325). Married 9 Jan 1909 in Jim Thorpe, Carbon PA. Obituary in “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” 17 Jun 1957 p 8 copied above. Buried in St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Cemetery, Summit Hill, Carbon PA. F: 146210499
- Warren Thomas Holmes, 10 Jul 1881 Coaldale, Schuylkill PA – 26 Nov 1946 Lansford, Carbon PA. Widowed in 1910 census. Married to Margaret Whiddin (1883-1972, F: 113693525) on 23 Nov 1910 in Carbon, Westmoreland PA. Construction foreman. Died of prostate cancer. Buried in Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery, Summit Hill, Carbon PA [where parents & siblings are buried]. F: 151666407
- William Victor Holmes, 8 May 1883 Coaldale, Schuylkill PA – 20 Dec 1938 Lansford, Carbon PA. Died of lung cancer. His obituary in the “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” 22 Dec 1938 p 7 copied above. Was a lampman for Greenwood Colliery L N C Co. since 7 Oct 1938 (47 years). Married Lizzie York on 14 May 1907 in Jim Thorpe, Carbon PA. Buried in St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Cemetery, Summit Hill, Carbon PA [where sister Margaret is buried] but not on Find A Grave as of 5 Mar 2021.
- Richard Boyd Holmes, 1 Apr 1885 PA – 18 Feb 1936 Palmerton, Carbon PA. Husband of Elizabeth Day (1889-1950) whom he married 20 Sep 1912 in Carbon, Westmoreland PA. His obituary in the “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” 15 Jul 1950 p 15 copied above. Janitor; died of apoplexy. Buried in the Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery, Summit Hill, Carbon PA [where parents & siblings are buried] but not on Find A Grave as of 5 Mar 2021.

- Kathryn (Kate) Holmes Muldine Mulderick, Jul 1887 [1886 in 1900 census] PA – 22 Sep 1975 Bethesda MD (Wildwood Nursing Home). Resident of Washington DC in Dec 1971. Had sons Frank Muldine [ca. 1911], John Muldine [ca. 1912] & Elmer Cornelius Muldine (7 Dec 1917 PA – 26 Sep 2001), all of whom survived her. Wife of Cornelius Mulderick [also found as Mulderic]. Obituary in the "Wilmington (DE) Morning News" 24 Sep 1975 p 28 copied above. Buried in Cathedral Cemetery, Wilmington, New Castle DE. F: 112853859
- Dora Eveland Holmes Granger, 8 Aug 1889 Lansford, Carbon PA – 30 Mar 1971 Wilmington, New Castle DE. Wife of Isaac William Granger (1885-1939). Buried in Grand Army of the Republic Cemetery, Summit Hill, Carbon PA. F: 113721949
- Myrtle Holmes Doherty, 1898 PA – 27 Apr 1983. Wife of Gerald P. Doherty (1893-1972). As Mrs. Doherty, resident of Wilmington DE in Dec 1971. Buried in Cathedral Cemetery, Wilmington, New Castle DE. F: 109837204

Notes:

Graduate of Temple University.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Philadelphia Inquirer" 10 Feb 1918 p 7 - Elmer E. Holmes & Floyd Price of Lansford safe, Lansford (population 10,000) has 800 in service, 700 of them volunteers

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 11 Feb 1918 p 5 - rejoicing in Panther Creek Valley when Mrs. Robert Mitchell rec'd a telegram from her brother, Elmer Holmes: "Price and myself safe. Elmer Holmes." [Floyd Price & Elmer from Lansford PA]

Post-war:

member of Last Man's Club

PA state legislator for Carbon County PA (Republican), 1943-1944

Obituary:

"Allentown [PA] Morning Call" 14 Dec 1971 p34 - age 79, resident of 313 W. Ridge St., Lansford PA. Former Carbon Co. representative in state legislature (1 term, 1933-34), deputy sheriff, State Public Utility Commission employee, dental supply salesman until 1960 retirement. Tuscania survivor, picked up by destroyer. Born Coaldale PA, son of John E. & Hannah (Gallagher) Holmes. His wife Esther (Caldwell) d. 1949. Survived by 2 daughters, son, 2 sisters

Social Security number: 171-01-4386

Censuses:

1900 Lansford, Carbon PA – 282 Abbott St.

John Holmes, 47 PA, Jun 1852, parents b. Ireland, married 25 years, teamster

Hannah, 45 PA, Aug 1854, parents b. Ireland, gave birth to 12 children, 9 are living

John H., 24 PA, Jun 1875, mine laborer

Alice, 21 PA, Jul 1873

Narn [Warren], 19 PA, May 1881, day laborer

Richard, 15 PA, Oct 1884, day laborer

Kate, 13 PA, Jul 1886, at school

Dora, 11 PA, Aug 1888, at school

Elmer, 8 PA, May 1892, at school

Myrtle, 2 PA, Mar 1898

[all the children are single]

1910 Lansford, Carbon PA – 400 W. Bertsch St.

John Holmer [Holmes], 56 PA, parents b. Ireland, in 1st marriage, married 34 years, engineer, coal mine

Hannah, 54 PA, parents b. Ireland, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 12 children, 10 are living

Warren, 28 PA, widowed, electrician, electric power house

Richard, 25 PA, electrician, electric light company

Elmer, 17 PA, salesman, dry goods

Myrtle, 12 PA

1920 Lansford, Carbon PA – 400 W. Bertsch St.

Robert Mitchell, 46 PA, parents b. Scotland, proprietor, bakery

Rebecca Mitchell, 42 PA, parents b. PA [wife] [Elmer's sister Rebecca]

John Mitchell, 22 PA, parents b. PA, baker, bakery [son]

Elmer Holmes, 27 PA, parents b. PA, single, proprietor, bakery [brother-in-law]

Alice Holmes, 20 PA, parents b. PA, baker, bakery [sister-in-law]

Robert Holmes, 17 PA, parents b. PA, baker, bakery [brother-in-law]

Warren, 12 PA, parents b. PA

1930 Lansford, Carbon PA – 313 W. Ridge St.

Elmer Holmes, 38 PA, parents b. PA, age 30 at 1st marriage, salesman, dental firm, WWI veteran

Ester, 31 PA, parents b. PA, age 23 at 1st marriage,

Anna, 3 PA

1940 Lansford, Carbon PA – 313 W. Ridge – in same house in 1935

Annie Caldwell, 71 PA, widow [head of household]

Elmer Holmes, 41 PA, investigator, county poor house [son-in-law]

Esther, 41 PA [daughter]

Anne, 13 PA [granddaughter]

Robert, 6 PA [grandson]

Mary Jane, 2 PA [granddaughter]