

The 1942 Millersville
"Touchstone" yearbook
entry for Frank Peoples

Photo courtesy
of Millersville
University Archives
& Special Collections



FRANK PEOPLES

Known to his friends as "Larry." A four-letter man for Porter, Band Choir, Orchestra, and Music Committee. Chairman of Entertainment Committee as a Junior, and as a Senior presided over Student Council. Interested in both science and math, Larry joined both Mu Kappa Mu and Roddy. Member of Normal Literary Society, and a real upholder of the ideals of the "Skunk Hollow Boys."

GENEROSITY, HEROISM AND SACRIFICE: The Enduring Legacy of a Millersville Alumnus Transcends Generations

Throughout its rich history, Millersville has made a valuable impact in the lives of thousands of alumni who treasure their student experiences with gratitude for the opportunities that have shaped their life pathways immeasurably. These transformative student experiences at Millersville have encouraged many gracious alumni to leave a legacy through their generous contributions of estate gifts.

An exceptional Millersville alumnus with an enduring legacy of sacrifice and generosity is the late **Lt. Frank Peoples Jr. '42**. Born on April 10, 1920, and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Frank Peoples Jr., who was also known as "Larry," attended Millersville State Teachers College (M.S.T.C.) and graduated in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education – Secondary course.

As a Millersville student, Frank was an active participant in a variety of campus clubs and activities. According to the Millersville "Touchstone" yearbook in 1942, during Frank's senior year, he was involved in "Band, Choir, Orchestra, and Music Committee," in addition to serving as "Chairman of Entertainment Committee as a Junior," and he was president of the Student Council in his senior year. Through his interests in both science and math, Frank was a member of Mu Kappa Mu, a math club focused on teaching math, and the Roddy Scientific Society, in addition to the Normal Literary Society. Frank's yearbook entry notes that he was a "real upholder of the ideals of the 'Skunk Hollow Boys,'" which was a small, student-run dramatic club on campus. As demonstrated through his extensive engagement in the Millersville campus community, Frank made a valuable contribution to M.S.T.C. while a student, and his appreciation for Millersville made a positive impact in his life.

After graduating from Millersville State Teachers College in 1942, Frank served in World War II. Tragically, Lieutenant Frank Peoples Jr. was "killed in action on a bombing mission over Vienna, Austria, on July 16, 1944," according to the July 1946 edition of the Millersville College Journal. Frank died at the age



Lt. Frank Peoples Jr. '42

of 24, and he was buried in Nettuno, Roma, Italy.

Frank had a younger sister, Irma Elsie Peoples, and their family resided in the Frankford neighborhood of Philadelphia, which was still rather rural during their youth. Like Frank, Irma attended college to become a teacher, and she graduated from Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania. Irma dedicated many years of her life to a long and successful career as an educator through her work in the Pennsylvania School System.

To honor the memory of Frank Jr. and his father, the late Frank O. Peoples Sr., Irma and her mother, "Elsie," donated a stained-glass window that was placed in Emmanuel Resurrection Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Like the bright illumination of a stained-glass window, the memory of Frank was carried on by his sister, Irma, throughout her long life until she passed away peacefully at the age of 100 on March 15, 2023, at Southampton Estates, a continuing care retirement community located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Continued on page 5



Irma Elsie Peoples, Frank's younger sister

Following the conclusion of World War II, in honoring Frank's heroism on campus at Millersville, a memorial tree was planted in his memory. According to a May 1946 edition of *The Snapper*, an article with a headline of "College Honors Heroes" states, "Twelve young trees have been added to the college campus to honor each of the M.S.T.C. students who gave his life in service to his country." To memorialize the lives of Millersville students who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, the lives of these courageous students were commemorated by the memorial trees on campus.

Many years later in 2023, more than 80 years after his graduation from M.S.T.C., Frank's gratitude for his student experience was demonstrated through an estate gift to Millersville University. Through Frank's estate gift, his legacy of generosity continues for Millersville students long into the future. As an active and engaged student, Frank made a difference in the campus community at Millersville many years ago, and he was inspired to support student excellence in others – as reflected in his life story and in the remarkable lives of Millersville students throughout history. ♦

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Explore opportunities to make a positive impact for future generations of students through planned giving.

[**CLICK HERE**](#) to learn more.

FUND THE 'VILLE

A Crowdfunding Platform to Benefit the Millersville University Community

Across the Millersville University community, there are fundraising needs from students, faculty and staff that require support, and with the Fund the 'Ville crowdfunding platform, these fundraising efforts can be promoted online.

The Fund the 'Ville crowdfunding platform is designed to empower the Millersville University community to raise funding that is needed to support projects, events and initiatives that make a difference in the University community. Through an online application, fundraising organizers may submit projects for review, and those that are approved will be added to the Fund the 'Ville webpage. ♦

EXPLORE THE FUND THE 'VILLE PLATFORM

View the collection of fundraising initiatives in the Millersville University community at the Fund the 'Ville online platform.

[**CLICK HERE**](#) to discover Fund the 'Ville online.

