



**Laird Paul Smith**  
**Technician 3rd Grade U.S. Army**  
**22 February 1940 – 29 July 1945**

Laird was born on 29 May 1918 in Krocksville, Pennsylvania. He attended 1st grade at Krocksville School, 2nd through 8th grade at Fogelsville Consolidated School, 9th grade at Raub School, 10th grade at Allentown Annex, and 11th through 12th grade at Allentown High School in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Prior to entering the Service, Laird worked on the Hopewell Farm, owned and operated by his family. He enlisted in Allentown as a Private in the 213th Coast Artillery, Anti-Aircraft (AAA) Regiment of the Pennsylvania National Guard on 22 February 1940 and served in the Guard's Medical Detachment. Laird was called to active duty on 16 September 1940, and underwent training with his unit at Camp Pendleton, California, and Camp Stewart, Georgia. He was then assigned to Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado, for two months' training as a Medical Technician. He left Denver to re-join his unit at Staten Island, New York, awaiting transportation overseas. While at Staten Island, Laird was temporarily assigned to Fort Ontario, New York, for an additional two months' special training. He was designated a Surgical Technician and primarily served as a Medic during his entire active duty, administering first aid, blood transfusions, and drugs to the wounded. Laird sailed with his unit from New York for North Africa on 2 November 1942, arriving in Casablanca, Morocco, on 18 November 1942. He then served in Africa in the Algeria-French Morocco and Tunisian campaigns under the 5th Army, 45th AAA Brigade. After North Africa was secured by the Allies, Laird was stationed at the Bizerete, Tunisia, staging area where preparations were made for landings in Italy. In October 1943, Laird landed north of Naples, Italy, and was assigned to the northern sector of Salerno. He went as far north as Vulture, Italy, before being sent to Corsica in April 1944 for assignment to a Medical Unit attached to the 899th AAA Battalion. He served on Corsica at an airfield which came under intense raids, but managed to spend a short time in Rome on furlough. In November 1944, Laird's unit was reassigned to Southern France where he was sent to the Maritime Alps for infantry patrol duty and where a great number of enemy Italian patrols led by German soldiers surrendered. In February 1945, Laird was reassigned to the 1025th Engineer Bridge Company and, after a 10 day training period, assisted the Engineers in building pontoon bridges for the 10th Armored Division spearhead into the Rhineland and Central Europe and all the way across the Rhine River. After Germany was secured by the Allies, Laird was stationed in Austria prior to his return to the States by air to New Castle, Delaware, on 25 July 1945. Laird was discharged as a Technician 3rd Grade on 29 July 1945 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, and returned to operate the family farm until 1973, when he went to work on Irvin Seidel's farm on Mertztown Road until 1984. Laird married **Kathryn Hilda Lichtenwalner** (26 September 1918 – 23 August 1969) in Solomon's Church, Macungie, Pennsylvania in September 1946. They had two children: **Louise Ann** and **Richard Laird**. They lived in Macungie from 1947 to 1963, when they moved back to live at Hopewell Farm. On 19 July 1975, Laird married **Francis Margaret Lambert (Brey-Bleam)** (1 October 1915 – 25 April 1986) at St. Paul's Church in Allentown. They left the farm in 1975 and settled in Orefield, Pennsylvania. Francis had three children by a previous (Brey) marriage: **Gary Bruce**, **Louise Margaret**, and **Susan Phyllis**. Laird was a Master of both Trexlertown #1755 Grange and Lehigh-Northampton Pomona Grange during the 1960s. Also, he served as Financial Secretary at St. Paul's Union Church in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania, and on the Council of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Trexlertown, and on the Planning Commission of Upper Macungie Township. Laird's parents were **Irvin Samuel Tilden Smith** (4 April 1892 – 28 September 1963) and **Elda Nancy Falstick** (11 August 1892 – 21 December 1965).