



WAVES Collar Insignia

Mary Louise Lichtenwalner Kemmerer
U.S. Navy Reserve (WAVES)
August 1943 – August 1946

Mary was born on 24 December 1914 in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. She was born at home on the Lichtenwalner farmstead, known as Sunnyside Farm, located on Brookside Road just north of the Brookside Country Club (now the Lower Macungie Township Building). Mary grew up on the farm and attended grades 1-8 at East Macungie School. She graduated from Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, in 1934. Mary then attended Kutztown State College in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, and, after graduating in 1936, she taught for the Lower Macungie School District at Fogel's School, a one-room schoolhouse just north of Macungie at the intersection of Route 100 and Antique Lane. She taught there until enlisting in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES) for two years in August 1943. The WAVES was established by Congress on 30 July 30, 1942 as a branch of the Naval Reserves, primarily for assignment to the shore establishment of the Navy to replace officers and enlisted men serving ashore to make them available for duty at sea during World War II. Mary underwent basic training at the Naval Training School in the Bronx, New York, followed by advanced training as a Clerk at Georgia State College in Milledgeville, Georgia, where the Navy had established a training center. She then received orders to Washington, DC, where she worked as a Clerk in the Navy Department until completing her term of service in August 1946. Upon her release from the WAVES, Mary was awarded the American Campaign Medal and World War II Victory Medal for her service. She returned home to live on the family farm. She married **Samuel F.C. Kemmerer** (1 November 1917 – 13 May 1986), who was an Army veteran of World War II, on 21 December 1946, shortly after Samuel returned from the war. They were married at Solomon's United Church of Christ (UCC) in Macungie, Pennsylvania. Initially, Mary and Samuel lived at the family homestead on Brookside Road in Lower Macungie Township with Mary's brother Benjamin until the early 1970s when Benjamin died. They then resettled in the white stucco home across the road from the homestead. They had two children: **Kay Louise** and **Samuel David**. Mary died at home on 25 January 2002. She is buried in Macungie in the Solomon's UCC Cemetery alongside Samuel. Mary was a Sunday School teacher at Solomon's UCC for 35 years, and a 4-H Leader and a member of the Macungie Grange for 45 years. Mary's parents were **Charles Alton Lichtenwalner** (24 September 1884 – 4 October 1955) and **Ada Missa Louisa Fries** (25 May 1883 – 6 Jan. 1960).



Lichtenwalner Farmstead