

# CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 14, 2015

## WALTER B. NICHOLSON – AS A GOODTOWN COAL MINER AND AS A RETIREE!

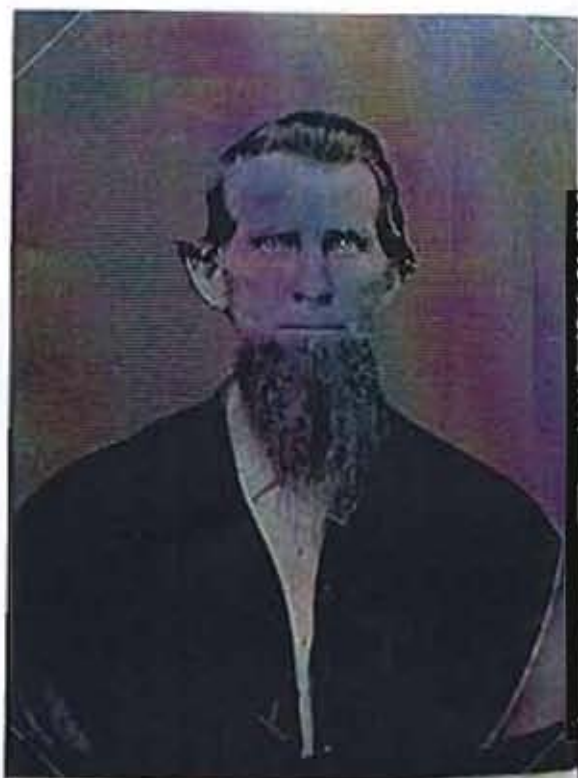


**W**alter B. Nicholson, (1897-1985) a long-time resident of Goodtown, is pictured above during his working years as a coal miner and in the right photo during his retirement years. Larry and Grace Pritts have allowed us to copy a collection of older Goodtown photos that include the left photo of Grace's grandfather carrying his dinner pail while heading to work in the mines. The picture of Walt Nicholson on the right (at the age of 72 years) was taken in June 1969 by Curator David Hay.



## JOSIAH AND SUSAN (GLESSNER) KIMMEL PROMINENT CITIZEN OF STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP

Two 5x7 pictures of Josiah and Susan (Glessner) Kimmel of Stonycreek Township have been donated by Ruth Ann (Kimmel) Kimmel, widow of Jay E. Kimmel. Jay and his brother Elwood E. Kimmel (and many others) are great grandchildren of the above couple. Stew Saylor has printed out pedigree charts for both Josiah and Susan, who are descendants of numerous prominent older families of Stonycreek Township. Josiah's obituary was taken from the December 24, 1903 edition of the *Berlin Record*.



### JOSIAH KIMMEL.

In the passing away of Josiah Kimmel, who died on Monday morning at 11 o'clock, Stonycreek township loses of its oldest and most prominent citizen. Mr. Kimmel was born May 22, 1824 and was aged 79 years, 6 mos., 29 days. He was a sufferer with dropsy for about six months and at times was confined to his bed with the terrible malady, for several weeks prior to his death he was in a very feeble condition and his death was looked for every moment.

Mr. Kimmel was a life long resident of Stonycreek, being born on the farm now owned by J. J. Kimmel. After he was married he moved onto the farm on which he lived until four years ago at which time he sold the property to Edward B. Kimmel and moved to Downey. He was a prominent citizen of the community in which he lived and was respected and honored by the entire countryside. Mr. Kimmel is survived by the widow and two brothers, J. J. Kimmel of Berlin and John M. Kimmel of Jefferson township. Three sons also mourn the death of the aged father, Rev. J. L. Kimmel of Dayton, Ohio, J. G. and Edward B. Kimmel of Stonycreek township.

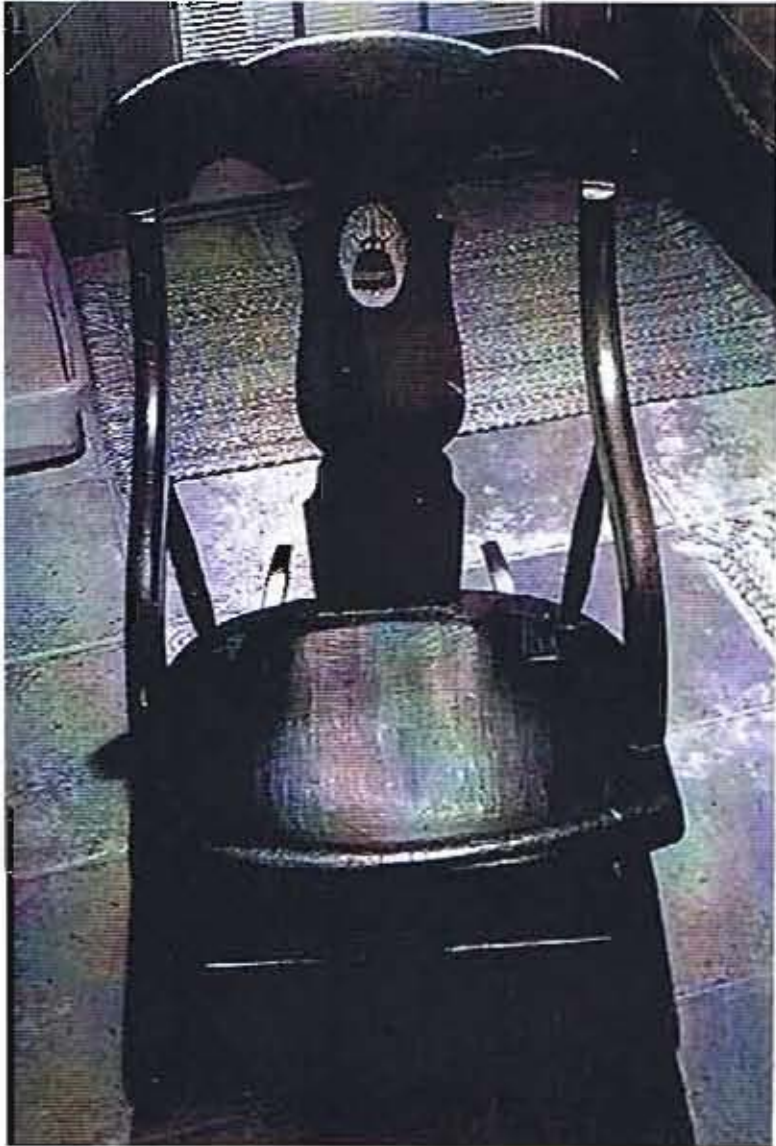
The deceased was a consistent and faithful member of the Brethren church and took a leading part in the workings of his church during the years in which he enjoyed good health. The funeral was held on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock at Downey, Rev. J. H. Knepper officiated.

*Dec 21, 1903*



ROCKING CHAIR OF THE  
FAMILY OF JACOB ZORN!

BLUE RIDGE THEATRE TICKET  
DONATED BY GAYLA (BOYER)  
ADAMS



Georgia (Lichty) Martin of the Bakersville area donated this rocking chair to BAHS because she was interested in it staying in the Berlin area. She bought this rocker some years ago at the auction in Berlin at the home of the late Mary Zorn. At the auction, Zorn family members said that it was the rocking chair that Civil War Veteran Sgt. Jacob Zorn's, grandmother sat in to read the numerous letters that Jacob Zorn wrote home to his family. Excerpts from Jacob Zorn's diary have been published into a book that is available for purchase at the Berlin Area Historical Society.



GAYLA (BOYER) ADAMS of Monroe, NC (a daughter of former board member, the late Earl E. Boyer) has donated the ticket pictured above to the Blue Ridge Theatre along with the following note:

**Ladies/Gentlemen!**

While going through some old boxes, I came across this movie ticket to the Blue Ridge Theatre. Why I still have this, I do not know!

However, I remember going to this movie with my grandmother, Pearl Boyer, who, by the title - God's Little Acre - thought it was a faith based film. Of course, it turned out to be pretty steamy fare for the times and for a 10-year-old girl and her grandmother!

My dad, Earl E. Boyer volunteered with y'all for many years and I have quite a collection of "Memo's", many of which he contributed articles.

At any rate, I cannot bring myself to throw this away; perhaps you will?! My best and kindest regards to BAHS!

Gayla Boyer Adams

Dorothy (Warren) Holsopple, daughter of former Berlin Station Agent Lester Warren, donated her 1939 Bervalon and several high school reunion photos.



LESTER AND MABEL  
(MUSSER) ENGLE



Craig Cameron of Altoona donated the above photo of Lester and Mabel Engle, the long-time owners of the Roxbury Store. He shared these comments: "Read the curator's report about folks from Roxbury and some names appeared that I recognized. I'm not directly related but this photo was found in a box of photos of Katie (Boyer) Cameron. Katie was a daughter of John W. Boyer from Allegheny Township. John W. was a son of George G. Boyer.

R. Donald Williams donated an old ledger (1896) kept by Simon Fisher, a Ginny's Restaurant calendar, and miscellaneous items.

DAMES OF MALTA BADGE  
DONATED BY GERALD & MARCINE  
ZORN



ADDITIONAL DONATIONS BY  
GERALD & MARCINE ZORN

1. Modern Dairy advertising items including a mirror, two thermostats, and a picture
2. Block Party parade participant plaques
3. Baldwin & Dively General Store advertising
4. Berlin Feed Company ruler
5. First National Bank fan
6. Roxbury Store fan
7. Fred Groff tray
8. Frank Groff shoe horn
9. John Altfather memorial
10. Keidel Hardware cap



## ADDITIONAL DONATIONS



Notice the misspelling of New *National* Hotel

Fae Hetrick donated Keidel family history and miscellaneous items. T. Rich and Tommy Croner donated an 18-foot wooden water line from the former Guy Miller farm. Gerald Weigle donated a coupling for a wooden water line. George Custer donated an old fashioned door bell and miscellaneous advertising. Bob Platt donated historical newspapers and an early maple festival ceramic leaf. Bob Platt and Ruth Kimmel, widow of Jay Kimmel, donated a Roxbury Store photo, Downey history, Roxbury Tavern information and a pair of baby shoes worn by Mrs. Ernest (Mary Lydia Marteeny) Kimmel.

The Wayne Darr family donated Wayne's firemen's uniform. Mrs. Richard (Bert) Adams donated Kenneth Martz's obituary. Ken was a former BAHS member and a graduate of BBHS in 1953. Hazel Hillegas donated photos. Butch Leazier donated an assortment of local advertising calendars and his father's mine certificates and mining memorabilia.

The chrome table and chairs from the kitchen at the Heritage Haus were used in Berlin's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Some additional items we have received from the Jeanne Merrill-Coleman estate include the Gaagey Genealogy, 1850 Census, Baptism and Confirmation records of Westmoreland County (1772-1804); Census records for Stoney Creek, Shade, Greenville and Allegheny Townships; *Indian Blood* by Olsen, *The Allegheny*; *The Old Pike*; *Laurel Messengers* (1960-1970); Pennsylvania German Quilts; and Pennsylvania German Coverlets.

December 22, 1773, land granted to Benedict Lehman then to Jacob Lehman -Lemen on September 26, 1786, then to George Leman in the will of Jacob Leman, October 13, 1792

DEED NO/ p	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	DATE
3 / 232	George Leman	Christian Miller	July 29, 1793
3 / 230	Christian Miller	Christian Spiker	June 22, 1803
4 / 139	Christian Spiker	Joseph Spiker	July 5, 1804
9 / 142	Joseph Spiker	Henry Landis	
102 / 522	Henry Landis	Abraham Landis	
102 / 522	Abraham Landis Sr.	Lena Walker	May 27, 1875
102 / 524	Lena Walker	Levi Lease	Sept. 23, 1895
350 / 61	Levi Lease	Jack Fait	March 17, 1905
350 / 62	Jack Fait	Mary Lease	April 24, 1905
350 / 63	Ex. Of Mary E. Lease	Joseph Reitz	April 16, 1906
350 / 64	Joseph Reitz	Lewis H. Musser	Sept. 21, 1923
422 / 118	Lewis H. Musser	G. L. Emgle	Dec. 23, 1950
248 / 115	Ex. Of G. L. Emgle	Jay E. & Ruth Kimmel	Nov. 23, 1977



### Shoe Plant Here.

The machinery of the shoe plant arrived Tuesday, and Wednesday men and teams transferred the same from cars to the pulley works building in which the plant is to be installed. Messrs. H. H. Weierbach and foreman H. H. Hart also arrived Tuesday and are superintending the erection of the plant in its new location. As soon as the machinery is mostly in position Mr. Weierbach will return to Philadelphia to lay in a supply of leather and other raw material and to engage about a dozen skilled laborers to come to Berlin and work in the plant. Mrs. Hart accompanied her husband H. H. Hart to this place.

1903

### THE SHOE FACTORY

The shoe factory that operated out of the Eclipse Pulley Works building (beginning in 1903) was a short-lived venture as far as we can determine. According to our history book *The Berlin Area 1777-1977* the shoe factory closed in 1905.

A special thanks to our volunteers for the many things they do to keep our operations running smoothly. Two of the advertisements in this report have incorrect spellings. Can you find them?

DAVID R. HAY, CURATOR