

# CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 10, 2017



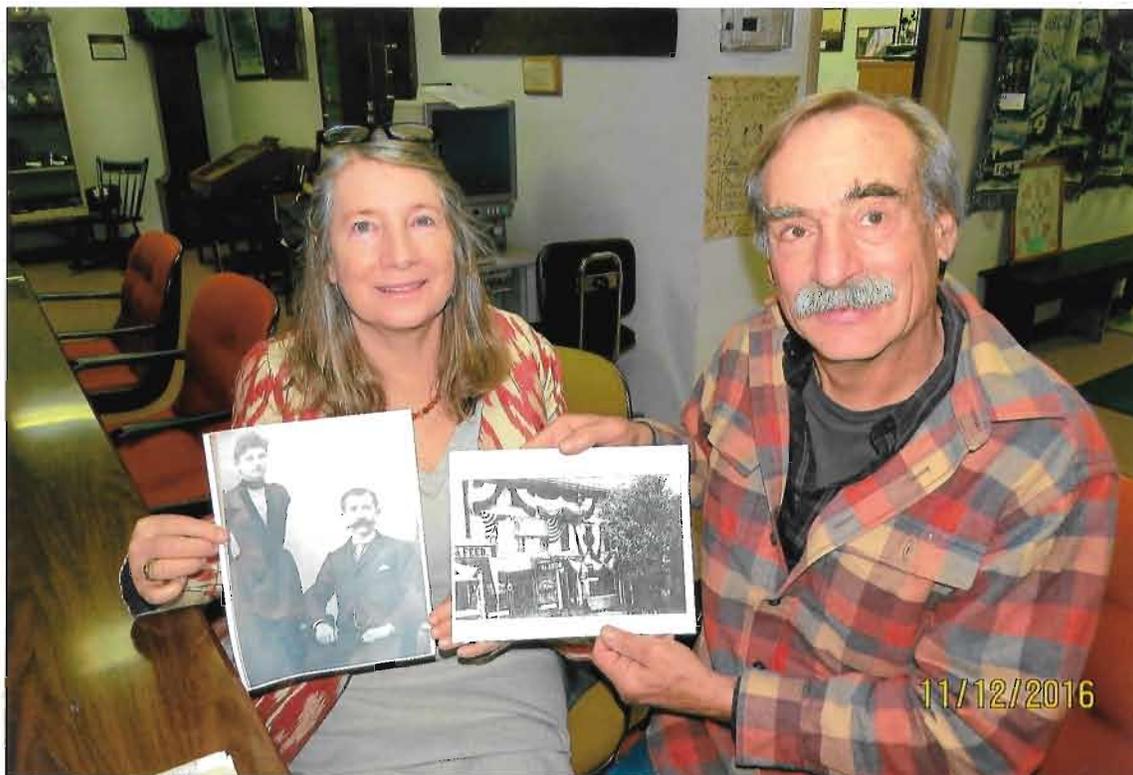
WEST MAIN STREET, BERLIN, PA.

**THE FORMER COLLINS DRUG  
STORE AND CENTRAL HOTEL  
(SHOCKEY'S HOTEL & HUNTER'S  
INN IN BERLIN!)**

## THE FIRE OF 12 YEARS AGO!

The two side-by-side businesses pictured on the cover of this Curator's Report were destroyed by fire on December 26, 2004. Various businesses occupied the two structures through the years. This month we are featuring what we remember as Hunter's Inn because of the California visitors who returned to visit BAHS on the afternoon of November 12, 2016. This is not a complete history by any means but it features Hunter's Inn over a century ago when the same business was known as the Central Hotel.

### ERIC L. DOUD REVISITS BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**JAN SCHUBART AND ERIC L. DOUD OF WINTERS, CALIFORNIA, DISPLAY A 1920 WEDDING PICTURE OF MARY ALICE AND A. B. FALKNOR, (ERIC'S GREAT GRANDPARENTS) AND A PICTURE OF CENTRAL HOTEL IN BERLIN AS IT WAS DECORATED FOR THE 1908 OLD HOME WEEK FESTIVITIES WHILE A. B. FALKNOR WAS OPERATING THE HOTEL!**

**I**n the early afternoon of November 12, 2016 – after attending the auction at the Anna Mae Weighley Estate – your curator had the pleasure of hosting Eric L. Doud and Jan Schubart of Winters, California at the Genealogy Building to discuss and look at pictures pertaining to the former Central Hotel. Eric's great grandfather, the late Alfred Bilinger Falknor (A. B. Falknor) was the manager and part owner of the Central Hotel for some years. A. B. and his wife, Mary Alice (Rhodes) Falknor resided in an apartment over the hotel, which had approximately 30 rooms. In fact, Eric Doud's mother, Marjorie Lou (Myers) Doud was born in the upstairs living quarters while her parents, Claude M. and Mildred (Falknor) Myers lived briefly with A. B. and Mary Alice Falknor.

Later the Myers family re-located to Johnstown, where Claude Myers was an accountant for Sanitary Dairy. In his later years of life. A. B. Falknor resided in Philadelphia before moving to Johnstown where he died in 1944 at the age of 80 years. Eric L. Doud first visited us at our Genealogy Building on October 3, 2011 accompanied by his son, Devin, who is now married and also

living in California. Eric L. Doud operates Designworks (Architecture and Planning) in Winters, California – an agricultural area where the raising of walnuts is one of the pre-dominate crops. Eric’s future plans include retiring and re-locating to the Carbondale, Colorado area. He was born and grew up on a ranch not far from that community.

From the *Berlin Record* weekly newspaper of December 18, 1903, we read: “The Central is the name of what is to be a new hotel for Berlin the coming year if plans mature. The building is the one now occupied by the Krissinger & Company Hardware Store and by Mrs. Belle C. Krissinger and Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Philson as places of residence. The property was purchased by Messrs. A. B. Falknor, W. V. Marshall, and Judge J. A. Berkey, the latter two leasing their interests to Mr. Falknor. The building cost the purchasers \$10,000 and is one of the solidest and best finished structures in the town.” (The Italianate style building was likely constructed between 1861 and 1880).

The above three partners had the building remodeled and developed it as the Central Hotel, opening it to the public in April 1903. A picture of the decorated Central Hotel during the 1908 Berlin Old Home Week festivities is on file at the Berlin Area Historical Society showing the name A. B. Falknor being displayed on exterior signage. A copy of that picture was given to Eric and Jan during their visit. While operating Central Hotel or possibly later, A. B. Falknor also operated a hackney service, transporting visitors from the Berlin train station uptown to Berlin’s business district or to homes of Berlin residents where visitors were staying.

After A. B. Falknor’s tenure in operating the hotel, it passed into different owners and management. Eventually it was purchased by Lewis R. Shockey and became known as Shockey’s Hotel. Eventually it became Lishia’s Hotel and at last was Hunter’s Inn, when fire swept through the building that we knew as Collins’ Drug Store and Horning’s Superette. (This is not a complete history of either building.)

The plot where the two buildings stood has stood vacant since the fire and clean-up work was completed.



**A. B. FALKNOR BEHIND  
THE CIGAR CASE AT  
THE CENTRAL HOTEL  
IN BERLIN!**



# Shoes, Socks, Feet Featured in Trial

## BULLETIN

Jacob Stark, 68, was found not guilty on counts of both arson and attempted arson this morning. The jury deliberated about one-half hour.

**SOMERSET** — The adage — "If the shoe fits, put it on"—found itself in the midst of an arson trial yesterday in Somerset County Criminal Court.

An old pair of work shoes was the center of attraction in a scene which brought humor into the dignity of the courtroom where Jacob Stark, wiry, 68-year-old Glencoe lumberman, was on trial. He is charged with burning one sawmill and attempting to set fire to another.

Stark was arrested after a sawmill owned by Coddington Lumber Company of Friendsville, Md., burned Nov. 1 in Northampton Township. Later it was found an attempt was made to burn a nearby mill owned by the same firm.

Sgt. Arthur C. Wood, fire marshal for the state police troop headquarters in Greensburg, investigated the blaze and picked up Stark. In the course of his investigation he found an old pair of shoes hidden under a cabin near the sawmills where Stark lived.

A pair of rubbers also was found.

On the witness stand yesterday Stark denied setting fire to the sawmill. He denied he owned the rubbers. He also denied he owned the shoes.

At this point defense counsel, Attorney Leland W. Walker, asked his client to try on the shoes. Stark with great effort managed to put on one of the shoes. He hob-

bled to the jury box to show the jury that the shoes fit too snugly.

District Attorney Frank A. Orban Jr. then had his turn at shoe fitting. He asked the defendant to take

off one of his two pairs of socks.

Stark protested he always wore two pairs of socks, "winter and summer," and then with the courtroom audience chuckling said apologetically: "I haven't had much time to wash them since I got in jail."

With one sock off, the defendant began anew his struggle into the shoe for the DA. Once again he hobbled to the jury box, still protesting the shoes were "too snug" despite the discarding of his one sock.

The DA claimed even Stark's big toe didn't fill out the shoe after the heavy outer sock was removed. According to the defendant he wears sizes 8, 9 or 12. But it was long ago, said Stark, that size 8 fit.

The shoes in question apparently were 8s.

For the prosecution, the shoes play an important role in a web of circumstantial evidence the district attorney is attempting to muster against Stark. He claims that the aged lumberman discarded both shoes and rubbers after the fire broke out so the tracks could not be traced.

A partly burned fuse found in a can of oil at the second sawmill also was introduced in evidence along with the foot gear. Stark testified he went into Glencoe to get help after he discovered the first sawmill afire. But the commonwealth

## REARS AND ROBUST MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE!

A humorous catalogue with the above title from the 1930s has been donated by **Don Wiland**. He received it from Don Mankamyer.

This unusual catalogue is quite different from the Sears and Roebuck catalogue that many of us remember from yesteryear. The below advertisement for fireplugs is one of many humorous items found in this catalogue.

### FIRE PLUGS

Get a fireplug that has color, tradition, a background and standing. Environment keeps your pet enthused. Give him the best. Put yourself in his place! Don't let him stoop to things that you wouldn't.

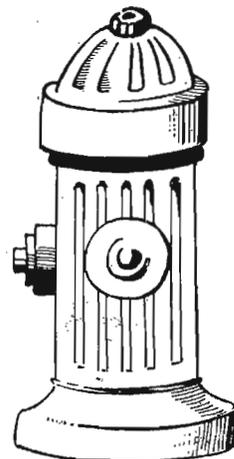
**\$2<sup>00</sup> to \$3<sup>00</sup>**



contends the alarm had been sounded before Stark arrived in the mountain town.

It also is charged that Stark had been fired by the lumber company because he did not report for work regularly. Stark said in addition to lumbering he took care of horses at the two mills and told the jury "I wasn't exactly fired."

The case went to the jury shortly before noon.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1952

## LISHIA'S HOTEL IN BERLIN



Barbara (Swope) Miller donated the above picture of the former Lishia's Hotel taken during the winter of 1957-1958 when the hotel was owned by Tony and Neva Lishia. Mike Tonkovich's pick-up truck is parked in front of Lishia's Hotel.

## JACOB AND ALBERT SWARTZENDRUBER'S FLOUR AND CIDER MILL – 523 MULLBERRY STREET IN BERLIN



The flour mill ceased to operate in the early 1930s but the cider press operated until the late 1930s. Later the building served as the personal residence of Edward and Mary Buratty. The structure was dismantled around 1980. Roger and Angie Rubright reside in a mobile home on the same property.

## VARIOUS DONATIONS

**Beverly Adams** donated the Raupach Family History. **Bob Platt** donated a heavy duty stapler and a sturdy notebook. **Roland Fogle** donated a drawing (building plan) of BAHS's office building, barn and heritage house. Bob Platt created those scaled diagrams. The **Blair Krause Estate** donated the Nov. 9, 1939 issue of the Berlin Brothersvalley Hi-Views (school newspaper); February 23, 1967 issue of the Meyersdale Republican; August 17, 1957 edition of the Somerset Daily American containing many Berlin historical articles; a copy of 'Some Famous Country Parishes' (1911) about European churches; and a copy of 'Country Carpenter' (1991). **Mary Lou (Shultz) Janeba** donated a 1944 Bervalon. An additional donation to BAHS's endowment fund has been placed in memory of Anna May Weighley by **John and Barbara Little**. **Cheryl Spangler** placed a donation to our endowment fund in memory of her uncle Neil Miller. Placed on loan by family members is the bass drum that Ralph G. Landis, Sr. played as a member of the Berlin Fife & Drum Corps.

We were able to purchase the 2006 Bervalon that we were missing at the auction at Anna May Weighley's home on Nov. 12. We also bought numerous other issues of the Bervalon from 1990 – 2015, which we have available for resale. It was a sad day to watch many of Anna May's collectibles being sold. The **Anna May Weighley estate** donated the 2016 Bervalon.

**Carolyn Custer** donated a Shanksville Stonycreek District commemorative calendar (2000-2001) which covers years 1929 to 2001. **Richard Berkley** donated a pliers used for installing hog rings and a box of humane pig rings.

Gary Estnick served as a tour guide for members of the Berlin Boy's Scouts, who enjoyed a tour of the facilities at the Berlin Area Historical Society.

We are grateful for the many contributions made by our members and friends. We also appreciate the many members and volunteers who assist in labeling the Memos to prepare for mailing and the many other things they contribute toward the work load at the Berlin Area Historical Society.

We wish our many friends and members of the Berlin Area Historical Society a happy and healthy 2017!

**David R. Hay, Curator**