

# CURATOR'S REPORT

## THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 9, 2013

This past month provided three special visits with Bob and Eleanor Brick at their Berlin home. It was quite interesting studying a photograph album that was owned by Bob's older sister, the late Luella Groff. We were privileged to be able to borrow interesting photos of the local area and have them copied for our files. Several photos are featured in this report including one of former barber Gene Walters giving Shannon Brick a hair cut; Coxy Groff's former cabin, and George Groff standing in front of the former National Lincoln Service Station in the 1940s when it was owned by his father, Robert L. "Coxy" Groff. Each time I returned pictures and visited, I saw several additional photos to be copied that pertained to the history of the Berlin area. Bob and Eleanor are two very special people and are among Berlin's older married couples. We miss Eleanor being one of our regular volunteers! This past month was a tremendous one for acquiring copies of valuable old photos!

### ROBERT "COXY" GROFF'S CABIN



This is a picture of Robert L. "Coxy" and Olive Groff's cabin in Brothersvalley Township from the 1940s or early 1950s. The stone cabin and many interesting stone creations were the pride and joy of Coxy Groff. Coxy had the cabin, a pond, and interesting stone creations built on his property and enjoyed entertaining family and friends there. His cabin was constructed on what was formerly the Simon Brant farm, whose buildings are gone. The cabin is still in existence but owned by an out-of-town family that returns only a few times annually to look after the cabin and grounds. The former road into the property behind the Menhorn and Foor farms along the Mud Pike has been closed. Access is now gained by using Hilltop Road (off the Old Plank Road) near the home of Larry and Pam Custer.

## THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED:

- **Bill Keller** has donated a turnpike receipt book, a straight razor, and additions to the St. Luke's (Mountain Church) Cemetery records. **Mary Ann Cotter** has donated early commencement announcements and a picture of the Boone School when her dad, A. Preston Ringler, was one of the school's teachers. **Xanie Adams/Joseph M. Brant** donated \$100.00 in memory of Earl E. Boyer (Xanie's grandpa). **Bob Platt**, Postmaster at Fairhope, has donated information on early Somerset County Postmasters and history of early post offices, a Fairhope brick, and a wooden brick spacer from the Old Philson house in Berlin.
- **Rae Hoffman** donated the George W. and Bertha Buckman family bible, personal research of the Rev. Robert Hoffman, a 1937 Berlin Centennial History, a Berlin, Germany plate, a Lowell Thomas War Map, and two old Berlin photos, one of which is pictured with this report.
- **Marcine Zorn** donated an early 1900s photo of Groff's Store (pictured with this report) and a winter scene along Broadway in Berlin in 1960 or 1961. **Karl and Marcelene Brick** allowed us to copy an old photo of Adam Werner plowing with a one-horse plow in his field (near the Deeter's Gap historical marker). The Bill Saylor farm buildings are visible in the background.



**GEORGE GROFF**  
**NATIONAL LINCOLN SERVICE STATION**



**GROFF'S STORE**  
**LONG STORE WITH SHORT PRICES!**

## DEEP SPRING FARM OPERATORS TAKING HAY TO THE TRAIN STATION!



This picture was donated by Rae Hoffman. It shows her Grandpa Jacob Musser (left), her father, D. Jay Musser (center) and an unidentified assistant (right) arriving at the Berlin train station with hay from the Musser farm to be shipped by train to customers (likely living in the city.)

## ADAM WERNER WALKING BEHIND HIS HORSE-DRAWN PLOW (George Wm. "Bill" Saylor farm buildings are shown in the right background.)



(Photo copied from an original loaned by Karl and Marcelene Brick)

# GENE WALTERS' BARBER SHOP IN BERLIN



In this photo from Luella Groff's album, barber Gene Walters (killed in 1944 during WW II) is shown giving a hair cut to Shannon M. Brick. Shannon Brick was the father of Luella Groff, Bob Brick, Edgar Brick, Clyde Brick, Dorothy Davis, Helen Sanner and Anna McQuade. Gene Walters' son, Eugene had a long career as a Somerset barber. Gene Walters' brother, George, was a long-time barber on the Lower Diamond in Berlin.

## MAIN STREET, BERLIN (EARLY 1900s)



### BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 1927

CLASS MOTTO—"NOT EVE BUT DAWN"

CLASS COLORS—BLUE AND GOLD

CLASS FLOWER—VIOLET

#### CLASS ROLL

MATTIE GENEVA ALTFATHER	KENNETH EUGENE LONG
RICHARD C. BINGNER	LULU MILDRED MILLER
ANNA ELIZABETH BRANT	VELMA GRACE MILLER
FREDERICK H. BRANT	WILLIAM F. MILLER
KENNETH BRANT	MARY BELLE MUSSER
G. STUART DELBROOK	JOHN CLAUDE SAYLOR
LEONA DEETER DIETZ	KATHERINE LOUISE SAYLOR
ELKINS C. DEETER	RALPH A. SCHROYER
VELMA GRACE ENGLEKA	HAZEL MARIE STULL
LEONARD R. GOLBY	MARY CATHERINE STULL
HELEN KATHERINE HAY	WILFRED ORVILLE SMITH
HAZEL MARIE HOFFMASTER	S. EARL STUCK
JOSEPH F. INHOFF	MARY CATHERINE WALKER
EUGENE CLAIR JOHNSON	J. ORLO WALKER
J. OSBORNE LANDIS	EDNA HILDA YUTZY

HENRY P. ZIMMERMAN

David R. Hay, BAHS Curator