

# CURATOR'S REPORT

## THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 13, 2012

### THE FRANTZ DISTILLERY IN 1943



This is a 1943 view of the former Frantz Distillery that operated along Route 160 south of Berlin. Many persons in the local area found employment at the Frantz Distillery through the various years of its operation. This picture and a second one of the "U.S. Bonded Warehouse" were donated to BAHS on October 29, 2012 by Jim and Helen Zimmerman during their visit on the rainy afternoon when Hurricane Sandy was dropping heavy rains upon the Berlin area. They donated a variety of Frantz Distillery memorabilia, a collection of various other photos, a BBHS 1956 school music program, a History of Pennsylvania's 67 Counties, and various other items.

It was great to visit with the couple and to hear some interesting stories from the past shared by Jim, who along with Gary Estnick, board member and volunteer, were members of the BBHS graduating class of 1965. In retirement, Jim and his wife have re-located to the Myrtle Beach area. Another member of the 1965 graduation class is Larry Varchetti, who along with his wife, Sheila, has also re-located to Myrtle Beach after living for many years in the Indianapolis, IN area. Jim shared about golfing regularly with Larry as well as some stories about growing up in Berlin. His mother, Mary Lou Zimmerman is a patient at the Siemon's Lakeview Manor Estates and his father is the late William Zimmerman.

- **Gary Estnick** donated a second grade photo (taken January 1955) of his BBHS graduating class of 1965 when he and his classmates were in the second grade (Chicken Coop) classroom of Mabel E. Shultz. We've had fun times chatting with 1965 classmates Melvin and Bonnie (Ludy) Baughman, Tom Blubaugh, Simon Beachley, and Jim Zimmerman in attempts to identify several students in the picture.
- **Margie (Fritz) Meese** donated an original poem. **Larry Pritts** donated a scroll saw. **Jim Suder** donated two local books: Great Allegheny Passage and Somerset County Pride Beyond the Mountains. **Mark Geiyer and Stew Saylor** made successful repairs to the microfilm reader and printer. The copies seem greatly improved in quality.
- **Paul Jackson Coleman** has donated \$200.00 to the endowment fund in memory of his parents, John W. and Mary (Esken) Coleman. **William Cober** donated a copy of his BBHS Class of 1967's 40<sup>th</sup> year reunion picture and program booklet. We have received a story about Milton Lowry of the Shanksville area written by his sons, **Wayne and Lee Lowry**.

## BERLIN IOOF BUILDING IN PROCESS OF BEING DISMANTLED!



In October 2012, Gary Sarver began dismantling the back addition that was constructed onto the original Berlin IOOF Building. Originally Brett Custer and his family, the current owners of the IOOF building, planned to dismantle only the back area of the building. As that section was being torn away, it was determined that the main building was also badly in need of structural repairs. Eventually the decision was made to dismantle the entire building. Although our Berlin area history books don't mention the date the IOOF building was constructed, the late Paul E. Pritts (a long-time member of the Berlin IOOF Lodge) told David Hay that he believed the building was built in 1888 purposely for a meeting hall for the Berlin IOOF Lodge #461. The first floor served many years as a hardware store for the Heffley, Glotfelty, Brown, Krause, and Maust families and also served as a gym, a restaurant, and a pizza parlor. What other businesses have we missed?

# DONATORS TO BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**PAMELA (SMITH) SCHALL**



**JIM ZIMMERMAN**

Our member **Pamela (Smith) Schall**, who lives along the Brush Creek in Northampton Township, visited BAHS on October 27, 2002 to donate a shoe lathe that came out of the former Bruce and Elma Lane farmhouse, also in Northampton Township. The Lane property is currently owned by Pam's sister and brother-in-law, Dianne and Gerald Boylan, who reside in Texas and hope to someday retire to their property, which in more recent years was the residence of Mildred Lane.

- **Robert and Donna Knepper** of the Schellsburg area have donated a three volume set of the Knepper Family Genealogy. **Janet Gindlesperger** donated a John Gindlesperger family history. **Tom Blubaugh** donated photos from the estate of his mother, Lucille Blubaugh-Anderson. From the **Carl and Faye Flamm** estate, we have received a large collection of Bervalon yearbooks. **Robert V. Miller** donated a lumber hook, a curve tray once used at the former Old Farm Restaurant in Somerset, and a hydraulic dolly. **Carolyn Clark** donated framed certificates that were presented to her husband, the late Luther Clinton Clark as well as a thermometer from the former Joyce's Restaurant.
- **Ruth Most** donated genealogy records. Civil War display items that had been on loan by the BAHS were returned to owner **Adam Shaffer**. **I. Richard Adams** donated a collection of Memos and enjoyed a tour of BAHS.

## BULL SKIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY ENJOYS A FIELD TRIP TO THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY!



### BULL SKIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Front row (l to r): Randy Brown, Bill Geary, and George Brown. Standing (l to r): Kathy Hendricks, Connie Rhodes, Kim Brown, Bonnie Brougher, Bud Quinn, Mary Kay Geary, Janet Romesburg, Beverly Quinn, Keith Romesburg, and Louise Cochran.

Thirteen members or friends of the **Bull Skin Township Historical Society** traveled to BAHS on the morning of November 7, 2012 to tour the genealogy building, the barn, and the Heritage Haus. President Jim Suder and volunteers Anna Mae Weighley, Stewart Saylor, and David Hay were present to welcome them and assist with their tour. The tour was arranged by two of their members, **Randy and Kim Brown** of 139 Bear Rocks Road, Acme, who also are two of our members at the Berlin Area Historical Society. The group was very much interested and impressed with how we display our many historical artifacts.

The Brown family also owns a cabin in Allegheny Township (above New Baltimore) in a secluded area off Tunnel Road. Randy Brown, a dairy farmer, is also a descendant of Caton Kalp, a former land owner in Allegheny Township, Somerset County.

Randy and Kim Brown as well as their two sons, Tom and Ben Brown operate Stonee-Acres Farm, several miles from Brady's Restaurant. The Brown's purchased the former Moses and Elwood Leister log home near Johnsbury in November 2011 and tore it down, giving each log a marking or code that proved helpful in reconstructing the historical home for a residence for Tom Brown on the family farm. The Brown's supplied photos to show that the house is well under way in being reconstructed. The last residents of the log home were Elwood and Sarah (Coughenour) Leister. Keith Romesburg of Bull Skin Township Historical Society is retired from CSX Railroad, having worked with brothers Ralph and Stanley Leister of Northampton Township as well as with Guy Raupach, Sr.

# THE OUTDOOR BUTCHER'S OVEN

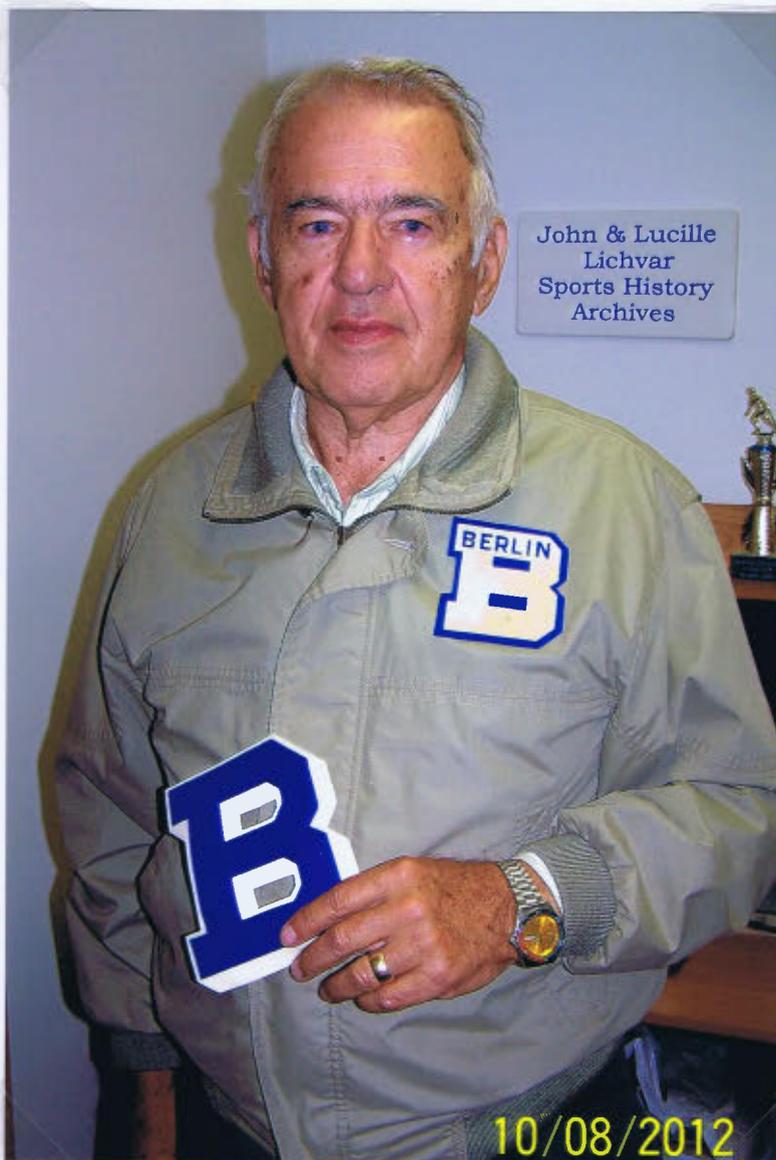
It was exciting during the month of October to watch the progress of our new outdoor butcher's oven being built as stone mason Roger Clarke worked to lay the foundation and to construct the fire pit and oven. The inside fire bricks were purchased from Mount Savage (MD) Fire Brick Company, and the outside stones were purchased from Webster F. "Buddy" Foor, Jr., who resides along the Mud Pike. They were foundation stones from the former dairy barn on the Foor property, which was torn away in recent years. Roger expected the project to be completed by mid-November.



As the construction was progressing, the nearby historical IOOF building was being dismantled. Our area of Berlin was seeing some major changes. An interesting two-page story with colored pictures highlighting the construction of our new outdoor butcher oven was written by Sandra Lepley and appears in the November 2012 issue of **Somerset Magazine**. The cover of the same magazine features the Pious Spring House with its surrounding beautiful flowers and shrubbery in living color. The society's committee for the

building of the butcher oven consisted of Roy Ogburn, Russ Hillegas and Larry Pritts. Richard Brant constructed the outside pavilion-type covering in the fall of 2011. Russ Hillegas and Mike Fogle have assisted with the excavating before Roger Clarke went to work with the construction of the floating foundation, the oven using the fire bricks, and then encasing it with the foundation stones from the Foor's former dairy barn. Our former curator, the late Paul E. Pritts would be proud to know that his dream idea is being completed!

## IRA RICHARD “DICK” ADAMS AND AN INTERESTING CHARACTER IN THE HERITAGE HAUS!



**Ira Richard “Dick” Adams** of Somerset, a 1955 graduate of BBHS, displays two of the sports letters that are on display at the **John and Lucille Lichvar Sports History Archives** at BBHS. Dick was greatly involved in football and basketball during his high school years and is a member of BAHS.

Can anyone share us any information about the character on the right, who holds down a position in one of the corners of the Heritage Haus? He’s almost hidden by other artifacts displayed in the same room. Could this guy be a display item from one of the stores that once operated in Berlin?

### . **Want List (For Memos and our files)**

Short stories that share interesting things about people in the community or about your school days. Pictures showing Ginger Hill homes in Shanksville in past decades as well as photos showing Fogletown, Althouse, and Beachdale areas.

**David R. Hay, BAHS Curator**