

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 10, 2019



**FORMER HAROLD & HILDA
KIMMEL RESIDENCE**

STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP

REBECCA BROWN-McCUSKER DONATED A SILVER TEA SERVICE



Rebecca Brown-McCusker donated the above pictured silver tea service which belonged to her mother, the late Kathryn (Pugh) Brown. She also donated Rebekah Lodge jewelry that belonged to her mother as well as her mother's 1947 Berlin Brothersvalley High School class ring. She also donated silver children's cups that belonged to the late Leora Jane (Pugh) Miller.

ON THIS DATE:

On **December 2, 1969** – the Boeing 747 jumbo jet got its first public preview as 191 people, most of them reporters and photographers, flew from Seattle to New York City.

On **November 30, 1960** – the last DeSoto was built by Chrysler, which had decided to retire the brand after 32 years.

On **November 30, 1835** – Samuel Langhorne Clemens – better known as Mark Twain – was born in Florida, Missouri.

BAUMAN ONE-ROOM SCHOOL NEAR MANCE, NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

Looking back



This is a 1932-33 class photo of the Bauman School. Front row, from left are: Rose A. Bauman, teacher; Lettell France, Jean Keidel and James Meyers. Second row, from left are: Fae Keidel, Charles France, Irene Hartman and Betty Bittner. Back row, from left are: Carl Meyers, Robert

Keidel, Mae Bauman, Leroy Hartman and Albert Bittner. Absent from the photo was Wayne Raupach. The students from the class are planning a reunion picnic to be held at the Mt. Olivet Church Grove on July 14, beginning at 12 noon. Photo and information submitted by Jean Keidel.

Newspaper clipping donated by Emily (Engleka) Bittner

OTHER DONATIONS:

Emily (Engleka) Bittner donated quilt patterns that belonged to her paternal grandmother, Martha, wife of William Engleka of Macdonaldton. **Dale Deist** donated autobiographies written by his parents, Donald W. Deist and Edna (Miller) Deist of Northampton Township. **Scott and Trudy Landis** donated three post cards.

THE MANCE POST OFFICE

**ESTABLISHED ON JULY 7, 1892
WITH ORION E. SPEELMAN, POSTMASTER**

The following persons were postmasters or officers in charge:

**Catharine Boyer 1896
Robert B. Broadwater 1921
Allen C. Bauman March 10, 1922
Tena E. Bauman July 1, 1923
Robert C. Ravenscraft November 26, 1923
Stella Ravenscraft March 25, 1924**

**MANCE POST OFFICE (FOURTH CLASS)
DISCONTINUED EFFECTIVE November 15, 1928**

SANDY HOLLOW SCHOOL

BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP 1932

Donated by Emily (Engleka) Bittner

This is a 1932 class photo of the Sandy Hollow School, which was located near Brotherton. Top row, from left are: Dorothy Young Field, Floyd Hoffman, Jay P. Walker, Dorothy Lehman Frazier, Betty Lehman Fritz, James May and Dorothy Maust Brouger. Second row, from left are: Gerald Walker, Paul Will, Calvert Rhodes, Robert Gnagey, Lewis E. Maust, Paul Countryman and Charlie Shunk. Third row, from left are: Geneva Altfather, teach-



er; Kathryn Countryman Bell, Lois Rhodes Cameron, Earl Boyer, Glenn Platt, William Rhodes, Janet Platt Gamola and Lorene Lehman. Bottom row, from left are: Pauline Boyer, Ray Platt, Clyde Platt, Betty Gnagey, Millard Haines, Ralph Platt and Anna Shady. Photo and information submitted by Geneva Altfather.



Roberta (Long) Browning donated school books and various memorabilia that included the 50th anniversary booklet prepared for the 50th Anniversary of the Cornerstone Laying and Dedication of the Glades Reformed Church. She also donated a 1949 newspaper account of the First Brethren Church, Berlin, when the Rev. Percy C. Miller was the pastor. **Lee Lowry** framed a large Shanksville School reunion picture. **Tom and JoAnn (Gondek) Smith** donated an unusual (yet to be identified) board that was found in the attic of Helen Gondek's former home.

H. BUNN PHILSON'S IOOF MEMBERSHIP PIN



RUTH (PRITTS) GILBERT donated the above pictured 25-year membership pin that was presented to "Bunny" Philson for his long-time membership in the Berlin IOOF Lodge.

PENTAGON GROUNDBREAKING

On September 11, 1941 groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon.

Your Church and Pastor This Week

FIRST BRETHREN CHURCH
Berlin
Rev. Percy C. Miller, Minister



The First Brethren Church of Berlin, Somerset County, was founded in 1882 by Elder Henry B. Holsinger, preacher, scholar and leader in the early history of the denomination in that county.

Membership in the new church was 75 when Elder Holsinger served as pastor. A year prior to the actual founding of the Brethren Church in Berlin, a frame building was constructed on Main Street. It was used until construction of the present brick edifice on the same site in 1926.

When plans were drawn for the new building, the old frame structure was moved to the rear of the property where it still stands. It is used as the Berlin Community Building.

Cost of the present home of the First Brethren Church was \$75,000. It was dedicated in 1926.

Membership in the church has climbed to 400, and 300 are enrolled in the Sunday school. Charles Cober is general superintendent. The church is debt free and owns an eight-room parsonage on Broadway in Berlin.

Since Elder Holsinger left the pastorate many years ago, 18 ministers have served the congregation. They are J. H. Knepper, J. D. McFaden, Joseph Kimmel, A. D. Gnagey, M. C. Meyers, L. A. Hazlett, J. L. Bowman, P. M. Swinehart, David Flora, L. O. Hubbard, C. E. Kolb, G. F. Watson, I. B. Trout, W. C. Benschhoff, Albert Lantz, N. V. Leatherman, S. M. Whetstone and the present pastor, Percy M. Miller (inset).

Rev. Miller was called into the ministry at Morrellville and served Brush Valley Brethren Church at Adrian and the North Vandergriff Brethren Church before going to Berlin.

Organist is Thelma Saylor, who is music supervisor in the Berlin-Brothersvalley Grade School. Organ chimes were given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Glessner. A loudspeaker system was presented by Mrs. Mary Picking. The organ chimes are played over the loudspeaker system Wednesday and Sunday evenings.

THEN – 1966 & NOW – 2019

CLASSMATES MEET 53 YEARS AFTER GRADUATION AT THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



ROBERT LEE BLUBAUGH – DAVID ROBERT HAY

On November 4, 2019, a Virginia couple visited the Berlin Area Historical Society. When the retired man mentioned that he was interested in seeing any records pertaining to the Pine Hill Lutheran Cemetery, Dave Hay was naturally curious as to the identification of the couple since he grew up within two miles of Pine Hill. When the man reported that he had Blubaugh relatives buried in the Pine Hill Cemetery, Dave lifted the man's ball cap hat to observe that he was bald. Suddenly it came to Dave that he was talking to his high school class mate, Robert L. Blubaugh – a native of the Goodtown area – and his wife, Lynda Kay (Younkin) Blubaugh of Hayes, Virginia. Bob and Dave graduated together in 1966 at Berlin Brothersvalley High School. The last time they were together was at graduation. Although they have corresponded a few times through the years, it was the first time in 53 years that they greeted each other in person. A great reunion followed that included dining that evening with their wives at Eat 'n Park Restaurant in Somerset. Bob is a son of the late Homer Guy and Irene Cora (Domer) Blubaugh. Bob has lived in Texas, New Mexico and the last four years in Virginia.

MAY THE
JOY OF
CHRISTMAS
LAST ALL
YEAR!

THIS CHRISTMAS
CARD WAS SENT
MANY DECADES
AGO BY THE LATE
MORRIS AND
ANNA (COBER)
MAYS OF BERLIN

THANK YOU TO
OUR MANY
VOLUNTEERS FOR
YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS IN
2019!



HAPPY NEW YEAR,
DAVID R. HAY,
CURATOR

*May Christmas with its friendliness
And all its warmth and cheer,
Its quiet charm and magic, too,
Bring joys that last the year!*

Morris and Anna