

CURATOR'S REPORT
THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 14, 2021



**FARM HOME OF ROBERT &
CHRISTINA (ROSS) GRASSER**

OFF THE BEATEN PATH ABOVE

NEW BALTIMORE

No. 361

Original Certificate.

[To be given to the persons married.]

I, Carl Laubach hereby certify, that on the 7th day of April
one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven at Johnsburg, Somerset Co. Pa.
William H. Felton and Mary E. Hartge
were by me united in marriage, in accordance with license issued by the Clerk of the Orphans'
Court of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, numbered 361.

Carl Laubach

Minister of the Gospel, ~~Justice of the Peace of Somerset~~

APRIL 7, 1887 WEDDING CERTIFICATE FOR WILLIAM H. FELTON & MARY ELLEN HARTGE

This wedding certificate was given to Berlin Area Historical Society by William and Mary Ellen Felton's granddaughter, Mary Margaret (Maust) Forespring. Mary Margaret was a daughter of Donald and Irene (Felton) Maust. Among other siblings of Irene (Felton) Maust were Pearl Felton and Dora, widow of Jacob Stutzman. Mary Louise (Felton) Mowery was also a granddaughter of William and Mary Ellen Felton, who resided in Allegheny Township. Her father was Harry C. Felton, a farmer in Stonycreek Township.

The Rev. Carl Laubach, Pastor of St. John's German Lutheran Church in the village of Johnsburg, performed the wedding.

DONATIONS;

Mrs. Harold Schrock donated three Berlin Limited edition Christmas ornaments for the years 2002, 2003, and 2006. **John Long** donated a mallet for use in ringing our school bell – the one that was in the basement of the former Berlin Elementary School (now Cedar Heights Apartments.) **Mary Susan (Shaffer) Engle** donated a collection of Bervalons (Berlin yearbooks) for the years: 1943, 1944, 1945, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1956, 1958, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, and 1969.

Larry Pritts donated a copy of the deed to the Berlin Community Grove. **Barry Landis** donated two vases that belonged to Eleanor Engle and a cut glass punch bowl. The punch bowl is to be awarded to a person in attendance at an upcoming annual dinner meeting. The punch bowl originally belonged to either Helen Croner or to Mabel Thomas

DECEMBER 1960 BLAZE DESTROYS BARN OF FERD & HILDA KRAUSE



\$20,000 FIRE of undetermined origin, that destroyed the Ferd Krause dairy barn, Berlin, RD 2, Friday afternoon, as seen from the upper part of the barn before the floor collapsed. All cattle were saved except a heifer, and a pig. Farm machinery, including two tractors was lost. Krause said the loss was partly covered by insurance. *24 Dec 1960* (Photo by John E. Reiley)

\$20,000 Blaze Destroys Barn on Berlin, RD 2

A \$20,000 fire destroyed the dairy barn of Ferd Krause, Berlin, RD 2, about 2½ miles from Berlin on route 160. Though all cattle with the exception of a heifer was saved, machinery stored there was destroyed. Krause said that he had just gotten back from a trip to Berlin, when his hired hand, a nephew, Claude Krause, told him he smelled smoke in the barn. Rushing round to the upper part of the barn, the men saw fire sweeping up the hay.

Quickly they ran around the barn, opened the doors, and the cows dashed out. Krause said they had no trouble with them, though a pig evidently got caught in the stampede, for it was bruised. Another pig and heifer didn't escape, and there was no chance of saving the farm machinery, consisting of two tractors, grain drills, manure spreader, etc.

Berlin firemen were notified the minute fire was discovered, but ran into difficulty when the truck rounded a turn in the snow-drifted road and got stuck. Immediately firemen radioed for assistance, and with the help of a wrecker and tractor, the fire truck arrived at the fire.

There was nothing the firemen

could do but watch the structure burn and stand ready to save any other buildings in case the wind started to blow.

Two propane tanks used in the milk house and two at the side of the barn exploded, temporarily adding fuel to the thirsty fire.

Though fire was at first confined to the hay lofts, it quickly spread until even the silo roof was ablaze. Burning so fiercely, that it would be seen for miles around despite the bright sun, the heat melted snow, around the barn, until the snow was undermined with streams of water.

Then the floor supporting the blazing hay collapsed, and it spilled onto the floor below, hissing and sending clouds of steam and smoke aloft, so that the fire was completely obliterated for a while.

So intense was the heat that onlookers had to scramble to get away from it.

The cows, which had been taken

from the barn, stood huddled together in the extreme cold air, in the fenced front yard of the Krause home. The dairyman said he planned to put them in another barn.



The road leading to the Krause barn, where the firetruck got stuck.

Onlookers, hitching rides in jeeps, went to see the fire, for firemen at the road leading into the farm wouldn't allow passenger cars in because of the chance of getting stuck in the drifts along the road. Even on the jeeps, wheels churned as the tires chewed into the soft snow. The barn and contents, Krause

said, were partly covered by insurance.

ZERFOSS SCHOOL - STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP

LOCATED ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE MISPACH CEMETERY

ZERFOSS SCHOOL Stonycreek Twp., Somerset Co., Pa.	
----- ELSIE WATKINS, Teacher -----	
PUPILS	
Orville Boyd	Pauline Rayman
William J. Ross	Violet Yoder
Lewis Walker	
Marian Rayman	Harold Mostoller
Cora Trent	Kenneth Ross
Bessie Zerfoss	Milton Mostoller
Mae Stutzman	Fern Walker
Gladys Grundy	
William Yoder	Ralph Trent
Edward Boyd	
Ralph Rayman	Mary Yoder
Harold Stutzman	Elsie Mostoller
Royden Yoder	
Earl P. Walker	Mary S. Zerfoss
Clyde Denner	Ruth Stutzman
Leroy Zerfoss	Verda Walker
Walter Watkins	Leroy Watkins
Margaret Yoder	Weller Bent
SCHOOL BOARD	
Geo. Kimmel	William Berkey
J. C. Reiman	A. P. Kimmel

Every Day a School Day

Should you forget some of the tricks of arithmetic or rules of grammar, the names of the bones in your body or the capital cities of a score of states, you may be certain that you have not been idling away precious time in conning your lessons and I shall feel that I have accomplished something truly worthwhile in my endeavor to make this old world a better place in which to live, if only you remember that the education of self is a lifetime process and not merely the task of a term or the duty of a decade.

DONATIONS FROM THE ESTATE OF ELSIE WATKINS

Ed Denner donated a tote filled with school items from the estate of Elsie Watkins, a former teacher in numerous one-room schools. She was a great aunt of Ed Denner. Later she married and became Elsie McKenzie. She died October 22, 1949.

Among the many items stored in the tote were the above school souvenir for the former Zerfoss one-room school in Stonycreek Township. There were other school souvenirs from the Duppsstadt School in Stonycreek Township and other country schools.

The donations included text books, post cards of sites in Washington D.C. and Virginia; handmade valentines, several photos of students attending the Zerfoss School, a booklet of class rhymes and class yells, and numerous items related to teaching school in the earlier decades of the 1900s.

A complete listing of the items donated is available in our office register.



**WILLIAM & EDNA (BRANT)
LLEWELLYN**

This photo was donated by Tracey (Shaulis) Koontz, who is a granddaughter of Bill and Edna Llewellyn.

The Llewellyn's operated an antique business at their property at the corner of Old Mill Road and the East Mud Pike Road in Brothersvalley Township.



DUPPSTANDT PUBLIC SCHOOL
Stonycreek Twp., Somerset Co., Pa.
District No. 11

Elsie Watkins, Teacher
W. H. Kretchman, Co-Supt.
SCHOOL OFFICERS
A. P. Kimmel Geo. Kimmel
W. Berkey J. C. Ragmen

PUPILS

1st Grade

Walter Stanton Harold Sivits
Qyinter Shumaker Frank Stanton

2nd Grade

Lottie Mililer Violet Miller
James Sivits Catharine Barndt

Clarence Miller

3rd & 4th Grades

Mary Sivits Delbert Stanton
Charles Shumaker Robert Stutzman

5th & 6th Grades

Meriam Miller Darl Miller
Ruth Sivits Eugene Miller

Samuel Barndt

7th & 8th Grades

Lillian Miller Vera Meyers
Vivian Stanton Clarence Watkins

**DUPPSTADT PUBLIC SCHOOL
IN STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP**

This is another school souvenir that Ed Denner presented to BAHS from the collection of the late Elsie (Watkins) McKenzie. In the 1920s Elsie served as a teacher in a number of one-room schools, including the Duppstadt and Zerfoss Schools in Stonycreek Township.

ON THESE DATES!

DO YOU REMEMBER?

November 4, 1955 – Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Cy Young, 88, died in Newcomerstown, Ohio.

November 4, 1991 – Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California. Attending were President George H. W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon - the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.



**SHERMAN D. GLESSNER
FORMER BROTHERSVALLEY
TOWNSHIP FARMER!**

This photo of Sherman D. Glessner was donated by his son Don Glessner along with a night stick (billy club) that belonged to Sherman. Sherman and his wife, Anna (Weighley) Glessner resided on a dairy and poultry farm along Wills Church Road in Brothersvalley Township.

Sherman was a former deputy sheriff of Somerset County in his younger years according to a note attached to the night stick!

**Does
Anyone Else
put things
in a safe
place and
forget where
that safe
Place is?**

One Way



ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

Donna (Hay) Raupach donated a Berlin Sesquicentennial book and Bervalon yearbooks from 1943, 1945, 1945 and 1984.

Terry DePhillips donated a Fred Groff Store 1908 Old Home Week advertising tray and a first National Bank advertisement mirror.

As we close out the year 2021, we would again like to thank all our volunteers for the many things they do to keep the operations moving forward at BAHS. May all of you experience a healthy and productive year in 2022!

DAVID R. HAY, CURATOR