

# CURATOR'S REPORT

## THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Four of us volunteers spent the afternoon of February 4 placing address labels on 182 post cards that were mailed out the following day to members whose dues for 2013 were overdue. It's a yearly process that brings in a large percentage of dues from the members who were slow or slipped up in sending in their payments. The cost of a post card increased one cent to 34 cents per card late in January. Although the Berlin Post Office placed an order for 34 cent stamps and a quantity of one cent stamps about January 12, they had not received their supply of either one by the time our cards needed to be mailed. We purchased two rolls of 33 cent stamps but unfortunately Berlin Post Office was out of one cent stamps. That was all right with me - it gave me an excuse to revisit the Somerset Post Office where I retired from ten years ago! Stew, Gary, Anna Mae and I put both the address labels and a 33 cent stamp on each of the cards during our volunteer hours. The following day I purchased the one cent stamps in the lobby of the Somerset Post Office. I enjoyed the opportunity to sit at the little table in the Somerset lobby - relaxing and savoring the opportunity to watch the customers interact with former co-workers working the window while adding an additional penny stamp to each card.

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### CYRUS MUSSER AND SON, ALBERT "KEFFER" MUSSER IN 1908



This picture of Cyrus Musser and his son, Albert "Keffer" Musser - both Berlin area building contractors - was donated to the society in January by your curator. I found it with some of my collections this winter while rummaging through some files on a cold wintry night. The picture was taken in 1908 after the men had decorated their horse-drawn buggy and horse for one of the parades held in conjunction with Berlin's Old Home Week celebration. Rediscovering the picture provided inspiration to do some research and eventually put together a story about the men's contracting business. We're eager to know about structures in the Berlin area that were constructed by the two men or by a third generation contractor, Chester Musser - who was a son of Albert "Keffer" Musser.

## BONNETS, DECORATED POCKET BOOK AND SHIRT COLLARS DONATED BY WILLIAM AND MARY LOUISE MEEKENS



**ANNA MAE WEIGHLEY DISPLAYS POCKETBOOK AND BONNET**

### **AMONG OUR RECENT DONATIONS:**

- **Leroy and Judy Lehman** donated photos of the Brotherton area as well as the Sandy Hollow one-room school house. **Leanne Calvert** donated miscellaneous items. **The Berlin Cemetery Association** has donated 2012 burial data and other updated information pertaining to the Berlin IOOF Cemetery. **Larry Pritts** donated a program for Berlin Basketball Boosters Second Annual Traditions of Winning ceremony held January 26, 2013 during the Berlin – Shanksville basketball game.

### **THREE NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

In recent weeks, three of our members have paid to become life members of the BAHS. Those three new life members are **Bill and Kay Ann Cober** of Berlin and **Lynn Brant** of Delaware, Ohio.

**STUDENTS DURING THE 1926-1927 TERM AT THE  
PLANK ROAD ONE-ROOM SCHOOL IN BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP!**



This 1926-1927 school picture of the Plank Road School and additional photos of the Plank Road School were donated by **Rose Ann (Sorber) Mease** of the Camp Hill area. These photos and other donated memorabilia are from the collection of her mother, the late Lorene (Hay) Sorber, a former teacher at the Plank Road School. The former school is incorporated into the current Mountain Bowman Archery Club.

**ENDOWMENT FUND MEMORIALS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF RUTH FRANCE:**

**\$50.00 donated by David and Karen Hagy**

**ENDOWMENT FUND MEMORIALS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF EARL E. BOYER:**

As of Feb. 5, 2013 we received 20 individual memorials adding up to a grand total of \$1,075.00, which have been donated by the following persons:

**Richard & Mildred Sturtz**  
**Gary & Joann Estnick**  
**Anna Mae Weighley**  
**The Jolly Quilters**  
**Reon & Sheron Engleka**  
**Jim & Kay Suder**  
**Robert & Eleanor Brick**  
**Barbara M. Croner**

**Russell & Jeanne Hillegas**  
**Lewis & Barbara Berkley**  
**Robert G. & Joyce Pritts**  
**David & Virginia Hay**  
**Linda McClintonck**  
**Stewart & Peggy Saylor**  
**Tom & Laura Findley**

**Paul & Nancy Miller**  
Nieces: Joni, Jane, & Janice  
and Nephew: John  
**Elizabeth P. Adams**  
**Hunter Douglas Fabrication**  
**Kevin & Martha Lowery**  
**Richard & Kathy Miegorden**

**Once again we are greatly appreciative of our many volunteers and the hours they donate toward the operations of the BAHS as well as the many persons who donate items to the society.**

**David R. Hay, BAHS Curator**