

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 11, 2020



TED IS PROUD THAT HIS HOME IS ON LAND THAT HAS BEEN IN HIS FAMILY FOR 104 Years! HIS GRANDFATHER FRANK GLESSNER AND HIS BROTHER, REON GLESSNER BOUGHT THE ACREAGE IN 1916.

TED & SUZETTE CHONKO HOME
SERENITY LANE – BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP

MAKING SAUERKRAUT

**MRS. HORACE (LIZZIE) LANDIS AND MRS.
NORMAN (ELLEN) SUDER**

BERLIN'S 1937 OLD HOME WEEK PARADE



ALONG BERLIN'S MAIN STREET

**DEMONSTRATING THE MAKING OF SAUERKRAUT,
A SPECIALTY OF EARLY BERLIN FAMILIES!**

CHRISTMAS AT THE GLADE SCHOOL HOUSE

DECEMBER 15, 2019



MARY ANN SHOWERS COHEN CLARK

AN EXCITING CHRISTMAS SERVICE!

LIKE A CHRISTMAS OF 100 YEARS AGO!

CHRISTMAS AT THE GLADE SCHOOL HOUSE

DECEMBER 15, 2019



MARY ANN SHOWERS
RICHARD SHOWERS
MIA FAIRMAN



MARY ANN SHOWERS
SAMMI JO HAYMAN
CARIOSSA CRONER

90th ANNIVERSARY SHANKSVILLE COMMUNITY PICNIC PLAQUE



**DONATED BY KEN AND CAROL
MILLER**

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF JOYCE ANN (GILL) BEACHLEY

Joyce Ann (Gill) Beachley was a former board member of the Berlin Area Historical Society. She passed on January 26, 2020 at the age of 85 years.

LEANNE CALVERT ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At our January 14, 2020 Board meeting of the Berlin Area Historical Society, Leanne (Shober) Calvert was elected as our new president, succeeding Jim Suder, who served approximately 20 years as our faithful and capable president. We believe that Jim served as President from 1998 through 2019 with the exception of 2005 – 2008 when Bob Schmucker served as President. Jim has promised that he will continue to serve in whatever ways he can with the Berlin Area Historical Society.

Terry Rhodes was re-elected Vice-President. Also re-elected were Betty Chaney as secretary and Stewart Saylor was treasurer.

A GENEALOGY INTERVIEW FOR SOMERSET MAGAZINE BY SANDRA LEPLEY!



STEW SAYLOR, BOB PLATT AND SANDRA LEPLEY

On January 13, 2020 Sandy Lepley interviewed our two in-house genealogists, Stewart Saylor and Robert Platt for a feature story on Genealogy that she was writing for Somerset Magazine. It was interesting to sit back, listen in to the interview, and take some special photos. At the same time Gary Estnick entertained Sandy's daughter, Tarrah Cox (pictured at the right wearing the hat of Horace "Bunny" Philson, the small former Berlin banker) by providing a tour of both the back room display area and The Heritage Haus. Bob also prepared a genealogy pedigree chart and both volunteers provided additional research on Sandy's ancestors.



A Bursting Fly Wheel On Corn Cutter Kills One, Injures Another

**SAMUEL BRANT IS KILLED
ALMOST INSTANTLY; SIMON
LONG SERIOUSLY INJURED**

**Horrible Accident Occurred About
Noon Last Friday on the Long
Farm in Brothersvalley Town-
ship About Three Miles
Northwest of Garrett**

A horrible accident occurred just before noon last Friday at the Simon C. Long farm in Brothersvalley township in what is known as the "Long Corner," about three miles northwest of Garrett, that resulted in the instant death of Samuel H. Brant and serious injuries to Mr. Long. The two men were operating a power fodder cutter when the rapidly revolving fly wheel of the machine burst into hundreds of pieces, fragments of the wheel striking the men with the above results.

Earlier in the morning they had been operating the cutter with a Ford tractor but did not make as much headway with the work as desired and it was decided to attach a large steam traction engine used with a threshing machine. This was done and the machine speeded up until the fly wheel was revolving at a terrible velocity. Mr. Long was feeding the cutter and Brant was standing alongside handing up the fodder when all of a sudden the wheel burst into many pieces. Both men were felled by the flying iron fragments. Other men working about the barn hastened to the assistance of the unfortunate victims. It was found that Brant was mortally hurt, a piece of the iron having struck him in the right groin, severing the femoral artery, while a piece of scantling used to brace the machine to stay vibration was torn from its place and forced into his abdomen, practically disemboweling him. He was horribly mangled and bled to death in a few minutes. Long was badly hurt about the legs and chest.

Dr. W. P. Shaw was hastily summoned from Berlin, but when he arrived at the scene of the accident Brant had already expired and his attention was given to Long. Dr. McClelland, who had been summoned from Garrett, arrived a little later and the two surgeons made a thorough examination of Mr. Long's injuries, finding a compound fracture of one of the legs below the knee, several ribs broken from the backbone, and an ugly wound in the breast and other lacerations and abrasions about the body. After making the unfortunate man as comfortable as possible he was sent to the Community Hospital at Somerset for X-ray examination and further treatment, where at this writing he is getting along as well as can be expected under the circumstances, with hopes of his ultimate recovery.

An examination of the premises after the accident showed that nothing remained of the wheel but an inch or two of the spokes attached to the hub. One piece of the flying iron went up through the roof, completely severing an oak rafter and cutting a hole a foot or more wide. Another piece of the iron wheel went some distance out through the side of the barn on to a straw stack in the yard. In fact, pieces of the wheel were found in all directions about the building, and it is very fortunate that other men were not within the danger zone when the accident occurred.

Just exactly what caused the accident has not been determined. Some believe that the fodder choked the machine or some foreign substance got into the knives and caused the machine to suddenly stop, while others are of the opinion that the vibration caused by the high speed that the machine was running caused the wheel to burst. Mr. Long states that just a few minutes previous Brant had been feeding the machine and he was standing in the position Brant was in when the wheel burst with fatal results. That the machine was being operated beyond its speed is attributed to the cause of the accident.

Samuel Brant was aged about 49 years and leaves a wife and nine children, while Simon C. Long is aged about 40 years and has a wife and four children. Both men are very highly respected in the neighborhoods where they reside. The fatal accident cast a pall over the entire community.

DECEMBER 15, 1922

This newspaper item was donated
by board member John Long.

The accident resulted in the
instant death of Samuel H. Brant.

Funeral of Samuel Brant

The remains of Samuel Henry Brant were brought to Berlin Monday forenoon, where services were held in the Trinity Reformed church, conducted by the Rev. J. E. Scheetz, pastor of the Grace Reformed church at Garrett, of which the deceased was a member at the time of his death, having joined that church after moving to Garrett some years ago. He was confirmed in the Trinity Reformed church of Berlin in early boyhood. Deceased was a son of the late Aaron and Amanda Brant of Brothersvalley township, where he was born December 25, 1874, and would have attained his 49th year had he lived until Christmas Day. Subsequent to purchasing the farm where he lived at the time of the fatal accident, Mr. Brant conducted a meat market at Garrett, and during his residence at that place took an active part in the civic affairs of that town. He was a man of strong religious convictions and was quite active in church affairs. He was a faithful husband, a loving father and a kind neighbor, and will be remembered for his many charitable acts. His untimely death will be mourned both in the family circle and the community at large.

Deceased is survived by his widow, Mrs. Edith Marker Brant, six sons and three daughters, as follows: Clarence, Clyde, Nevin, Herbert, Victor, Samuel, Marian, Ivadine and Evelyn, all at home, and the following brothers and sisters: Sanford Brant, of Berlin; O. Scott Brant and Mrs. Simon Foust, of Brothersvalley township; Mrs. Joseph Pickling, of Somerset township; Mrs.

Samuel Coldenberg and Mrs. Jesse Aultz, of Pittsburgh, and Mrs. Ross King, of Black township. Interment was made in the Odd Fellows Cemetery and the funeral was one of the most largely held in Berlin for some years.

THE FORMER MANSION HOUSE IN BERLIN



The former Mansion House Hotel stood on the northwest corner of Berlin's upper diamond on the lot where the Ice Cream Train Station is located during the summer months. It was once considered the finest hotel in Berlin. When the building was destroyed by fire in 1901, it was owned by James Trent. On the back of this picture is the note that Jefferson Landis and Jacob Yutzy did the masonry work when it was built. A history of the Mansion House Hotel was written by Jim Suder and published in the autumn 2014 issue of the Memos. The Disciple Church, which was located on the north side of The Mansion House, also burned in the 1901 fire.

DONATIONS:

Cindy Webreck has donated to our endowment fund in memory of Jeffrey "Clevi" Grove. **Justin Gerber and Brad McCarty** donated a wheat penny they discovered with their metal detector. **David Hartman** donated annual Philson Bank reports for the years 1974 – 1977 and 1980-1986 as well as a pewter plate advertising the Philson Bank.

We appreciate the volunteer services donated by our members and volunteers. LaVerne Coslic and Shirley Gary have been working on our inventory project. Judy Cook and Barbara Miller have assisted with recent typing projects.

DAVID R. HAY, CURATOR