

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 9, 2021



TOM & BRENDA WALKER'S

FORMER ROBERT BAUERMASTER'S RESIDENCE

BROTHERTON

CLOSED FACILITIES AT BAHS!

On December 4, 2020 the decision was made to close our facilities to the public until the virus slows and more people have received the virus vaccine. This was the second time during the past year when we have been closed because of the coronavirus. Various volunteers visited the office during the closed period to record the financial transactions, look after business, perform organizational work, check the phone messages, mail the winter issue of Memos, and to keep up with various record keeping. Both our January and February 2021 board meetings were also canceled as a safety precaution necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic. As this was written on February 6, 2021, we were into our third month of being close. We look forward to re-opening our facilities as the virus subsides and more people receive the vaccination.

DONATIONS:

The Register of Wills office donated a 1795-1995 commemorate calendar. **Richard Berkley** donated an HP ink cartridge. The **Paul and Marvin Beechly families** sent a Christmas gift of pecan chocolate and honey roasted pecans in appreciation for the hospitality they received during their fall visit.

The family of Donald and Edna (Miller) Deist donated \$3,000 to our endowment fund in loving memory of their parents. Additional funds of \$430.00 have been donated to our endowment fund in memory of Donald and Edna Deist. This represents an accumulation of funds donated by the following: Berlin American Legion Post; Douglas and Lori Anderson; Robert Wojtkowski; Trevor and Gail Wilson family; Janice Williams; Ronald and Carol Urban; Kathy Barron; Ben and Donna Vessa; James and Patricia Witt; Tracy Szemanski; and Art Deist. All of them have received a personal thank-you signed by our Board of Directors.

McKena Foor donated to our Endowment fund in memory of Kathryn "Katie" Bell. **Dennis Landis** donated 4 books that includes a reproduction of the Bedford – Somerset County History. **Jim and Kathy Moon** have donated toward the Endowment Fund in memory of Thomas I. Maast (Maust). In prior Curator's Reports we have listed numerous additional endowment donations that have been made in memory of Tom I. Maust, II. Tom was a 1968 graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School - a BAHS member who was a Norway resident for many years.

ON THIS DATE:

February 5, 1922 – The first edition of Reader's Digest was published!



**BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PARTICIPATED IN THE SOMERSET
COUNTY PASSPORT TO HISTORY
PROJECT**

During the last weeks of 2020, the BAHS participated in the Somerset County Quasibicentennial (225th) Anniversary. Their Passport to Somerset County History Project had 20 sites for participants to visit and obtain rubbings from a "rubbing post". Each post, with a Plexiglas plate, contained an etched image at various historical sites located in Somerset County.

The Berlin Area Historical Society provided rubbing posts on the lawn near



Pious Springs as well as at the Glade one-room school house in Stonycreek Township. The project ended on December 30, 2020.

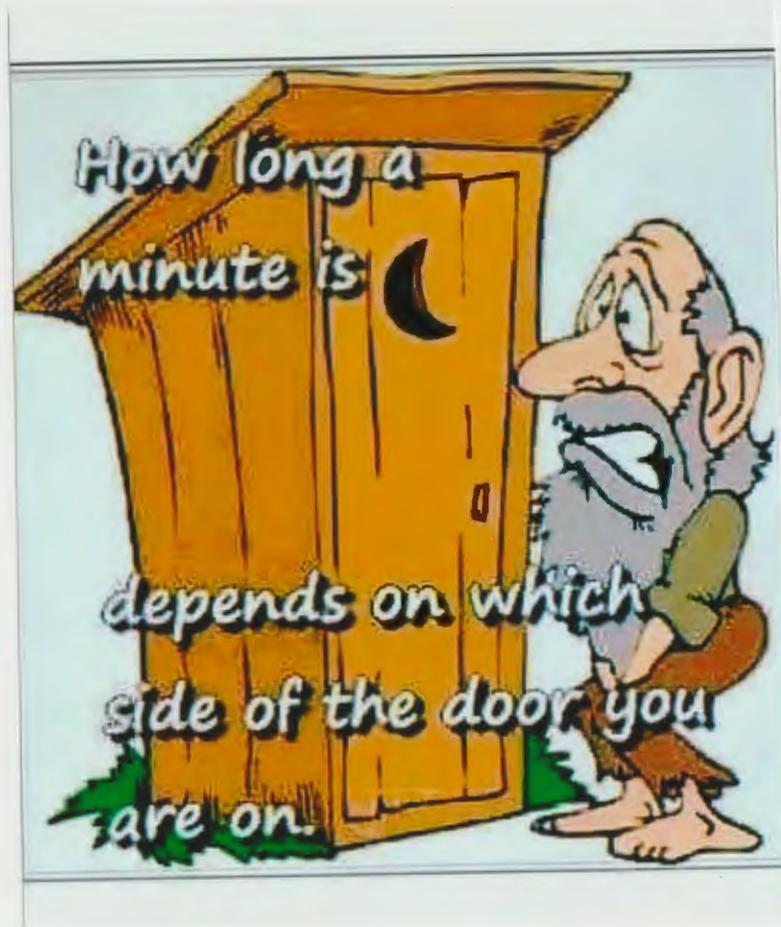
**JIM LEAZIER'S DONATIONS AND
ADVERTISING CALENDAR**

Jim "Butch" Leazier donated a 1913 calendar advertising the firm of Miller and Engleka Auto. This must have been an advertising tactic since their business firm wasn't established until decades later. Butch also donated several bank pouches; small advertisement calendars, 1998 newspapers of the Salisbury area tornado and various advertising items.

SWOPE AND HOYLE WERE WELL-KNOWN PAINTERS

For more than 20 years, Orin O. Swope and John Hoyle painted together in a partnership known as Swope and Hoyle. After they dissolved partnership, Orin continued to provide quality painting and wall-papering services to the community. Orin continued working alone until he was about 70 years of age.

In 1910 an advertisement appeared in the **Berlin Record** advertising the business of Swope and Wetmiller – Painting and Paper Hanging. Does anyone know the first name of Mr. Wetmiller, who was Orin's associate partner in business? Orin was born on April 18, 1883 and raised in the same house where he lived and raised his family. His son-in-law and daughter, Robert and Barbara Miller own that home in 2021.





Flag Day

Building fund committee members of the Berlin Historical Society held a Flag Day observance at the Heffley House, a log home along Main Street which the group hopes to purchase this summer. Members of the committee are (top to borrom) William Slifco, Sue Slifco, Ann Slifco, Dorothy Killius, Edna Deist, Donald Deist, Richard Deaner, Tom Fisher, Louise Ream, and present owners Darlene and John Beachley, at left, with original sheepskin deed being looked at by John O. Ream, at right. The Beachley children are Laura (being held by Darlene) Rebecca and Andrea. Members absent for photo were Emma Grace Deaner, Mary Caton, Roger and Carol Clarke.

(Staff photo by Bobbie Black)

Combined Flag Day, tour held at Heffley House site

Members of the building fund committee of the Berlin Area Historical Society combined a Flag Day observance with a short tour of the grounds of the historic Heffley House, which the group hopes to purchase this summer.

The group has been holding a fund drive to raise \$60,000 to purchase the home, located on Main Street, and to turn the home into a headquarters for the non-profit organization.

The property includes a stone washhouse, along with an older building which at one time was used as a tannery. The home dates back to the early 1800s, as it was built by John Heffley. The home was built beside the Pius Spring, which is the headwater for the

Stonycreek River. It is now owned by the John Beachley family, who also reside in Berlin.

"It is fitting to combine the observance of Flag Day with a tour of the historic Heffley House grounds," explained John O. Ream, a committee member.

There are currently two fund drives ongoing in Berlin.

"We are asking for donations for the purchase of the building be sent to us at the Berlin Area Historical Society's building fund, P.O. Box 22, Berlin," explained committee secretary Sue Slifco.

Beachley, the current owner, still has the original deed to the property which was written on sheepskin. The 40-acre property

was deeded to Jacob Heffley and was signed on July 27, 1784. The original wax seal is still attached to the document.

The home's log walls are now covered with white siding. The two-story home is one of ten structures of its type remaining in Berlin Borough.

According to the Somerset County Historic resource survey, the first occupants of the house are thought to be the John, Peter, and George Heffley, who were tanners and merchants by trade.

The building fund committee has set several meetings in addition to the regular membership meetings to discuss ways to raise funds to purchase the home.

DENNIS LANDIS DONATES BOOKS

Dennis Landis donated a soft-covered reprint of Vol. III of the History of Bedford and Somerset County; Soldiers of the Great War Vol. III (1920) and two additional books.

DID YOU REMEMBER?

Orin O. Swope was a well-known and long-time painter and wallpaper hanger in the Berlin area. Among his children were Barbara Miller and Elnora Tonkovich. Orin died in 1967 at the age of 84.



ICICLES WERE PLENTIFUL!



A VIEW OUTSIDE THER WINDOW AT BAHS IN FEBRUARY



LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING SPRING AND ENJOYING THE SPRING MEMOS!

DAVID R. HAY, CURATOR