

CURATOR'S REPORT
THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 14, 2023



ST. GREGORY'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH
MACDONALDTON

JEROME & CORDIE (STUCK) DICKEY



This picture and a separate picture of Civil War Veteran Jerome Dickey were placed on loan by Michael Davis from the household of Caroline (Dickey) Davis in Somerset. Caroline was a granddaughter of Jerome and Cordie Dickey, being a daughter of Frank and Gladys (Smith) Dickey. Also on loan to BAHS are various Bervalon yearbooks and high school class reunions photos. Caroline was a 1941 graduate of Berlin. Cordie Dickey was our area's last surviving Civil War Veteran's widow!

MCKINLEY'S GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORE



This souvenir from Dale and Mary McKinley's general merchandise store in Berlin was presented by Wendy (Walker) Stemple. It was originally owned by Wendy's parents, Grant and Flossie (Carmony) Walker. Its original calendar has been removed.

Wendy and her husband, Rob Stemple are relocating to the Pittsburgh area after living for many years in Shanksville where they raised their children.

THE PHILSON FAMILY CRADLE



Laurie (MacLachian) and John Eveland donating the cradle to the Berlin Area Historical Society

This Philson family cradle was used between 1881 and 1993 by five generations descending from the Robert Samuel Sr. and Agnes (Peterson) Philson family of Berlin. It was donated on January 30, 2023 by the fourth generation descendants, John and Laurie (MacLachian) Eveland, to the Berlin Area Historical Society along with many other historical items. The cradle is approximately 5 feet long, by 3 feet wide and with the head and footboards makes it about 4 feet high. It is located adjacent to our Philson Family and Philson National Bank displays in our back room display area at the Berlin Area Historical Society.

It was used by the Robert S. Philson, Sr. family by 1881. Second owners were Robert & Aggie Philson's daughter and son-in-law, Marion "Dolly" (Philson) and Ralph MacCleary "Mac" Taylor. The third generation owners were the Taylor's daughter and son-in-law Dorothy Ann "Dottie" (Taylor) and Donald MacLachian family followed by the fourth generation, their daughter Laurie (MacLachian) and John Eveland. The Eveland children – the fifth generation – had usage of the cradle through 1993.

PHILSON-TAYLOR FAMILY AND PHILSON NATIONAL BANK ACQUISITIONS FROM JOHN AND LAURIE (MACLACHIAN) EVELAND

On January 20, 2023, John and Laurie (MacLachian) Eveland of Delmont visited at the Berlin Area Historical Society and donated many treasured items that add to the history of the Berlin area. Many of these items are being incorporated into our Philson display area that includes both family and banking collections.

This is a listing of some of the latest acquisitions, although it is not a complete listing of all the items donated. There are several old deeds and important items that we plan to frame as a way of protecting them for the history of our community.

One of the treasures is the Philson family cradle that has been used by five generations of the family – at least from 1881 until 1993. The cradle is approximately 5 feet long, by 3 feet wide and the head and footboards make it about 4 feet high. It was used by the Robert Samuel Philson, Sr. (1853) family and next by the Marion “Dolly” (Philson) and Ralph MacCleary Taylor family. The third generation was Dorothy Ann “Dottie” (Taylor) and Donald MacLachian family followed by the Laurie (MacLachian) and John Eveland family. The fifth generation included the Eveland children’s usage through 1993.

A summary of the other acquisitions follows with many miscellaneous items not individually listed:

- Ralph “Mac” Taylor’s red childhood dress – typical wear for boys in the 1880s, often worn until the males were 6 or 7 years of age. Ralph (1881-1955) married in 1920 to Marion “Dolly” Taylor. Mac was a native of Illinois. They built their home at 702 Division Street, Berlin, in 1936. Mac and Dolly Taylor were owners of the Taylor Motor Company along Broadway in Berlin.
- Dolly Taylor’s baby comb and hair brush. Two beaded purses, shoe button hooks that belonged to Robert Philson’s daughters.
- The gown Agnes Peterson wore in 1887 when she married Robert Samuel Philson, Sr. Also Aggie’s fur muff and cape and hair pins.
- Dolly Taylor’s dress worn to her sister Anna’s wedding in 1928 to Maurice Floto.
- Two Philson family photo albums including photos of Berlin, Philson men serving in WW 1, and various loose pictures, letters, correspondence, and miscellaneous items.

PHILSON-TAYLOR FAMILY AND PHILSON BANK PAGE 2

- A metal container with deeds and historical banking items dating back to the late 1700s. Items from John Fletcher, who donated bibles to the church members for many years. Some items to be framed for display.
- Robert S. Philson's family of 5 children included Samuel, Jr., Ben, Anna Floto, Robert "Bush", and Marion "Dolly" Taylor. Among his siblings were: Horace Bunn Philson and Ella Crigler Philson – Berlin's "little people" involved in the Philson Banking activities. Robert S., Bunn, and Ella were three of the 11 children born to Samuel A. and Anna Maria (Brubaker) Philson.
- Ella Philson's eye glasses. A quilt made by Ella Philson that was made for the family cradle. Ella's obituary at the age of 88 years. Also the 1912 bill from John H. Zorn, proprietor of Zorn's Cash Furniture, for Robert S. Philson, Sr.'s casket, slumber robe, embalming, hearse, eight cages and buggy, all for the cost of \$123.50.
- Robert S. Philson, Sr. was 4 foot 7 inches (larger than Ella and Bunn). He was pleased when his daughter Marion "Dolly" Taylor grew to 5 feet.
- The Taylor home, built in 1936, is currently the residence of Bret A. and Bradley A. (Ogline) Landis.
- Ralph "Mac" Taylor, a civil engineer, was 14 years older than his wife, Dolly. He operated Taylor Motor Company along Broadway near the Upper Diamond in Berlin. After Mac's death, Dolly operated the business a short time. It later became Landis and Lafferty's Auto Sales and Service.
- Marion (Dolly) Taylor's brothers Ben and Robert S., Jr. (Bush) were in the music corps during WW I.
- Laurie (MacLachian) Eveland's mother, Dorothy Ann "Dotty" (Taylor) MacLachian (1923-2008) was raised in Berlin and graduated in 1941 from Berlin Brothersvalley High School. She attended William and Mary for two years and then transferred to Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon University). She was in their interior decorator program. Her husband Donald Lachian MacLachian (1921-1989) started at Carnegie Tech but left to serve in the war. When he returned he finished his degree in architecture. The program included the interior decorator students (how he met Dotty). His architecture endeavors included Point State Park, Heinz Hall, the Benedum Center, most of the Pittsburgh hospitals, the Ligonier diamond, Ligonier Library and Fort Ligonier as well as many Mellon projects.
- Laurie and John Eveland's visit provided a wealth of history of the Philson family and the Berlin community and many rare artifacts to add to our treasures here at the Berlin Area Historical Society.

ROBERT MacLACHLAN DONATES ADDITIONAL PHILSON FAMILY ITEMS!

Robert MacLachlan of Pittsburgh is a grandson of R. M. "Mac" and Dolly (Philson) Taylor who formerly operated Taylor Motor Company in Berlin. Like his sister, Laurie (MacLachian) Eveland, he has also donated some valuable Philson family items to the Berlin Area Historical Society.

Mr. MacLachian has donated a \$10.00 bank note and a bank check from the Philson National Bank of Berlin. The \$10.00 dollar bank note with the lettering Philson National Bank was legal currency which banks could print and use as paper currency during the early 1900's. President McKinley is pictured left and the note is signed by Samuel O. Philson, bank president. Annie (Philson) Floto's photo is on the bank check. She also signed the \$10.00 bank note as an assistant when she worked at the bank. She was the second oldest children of Robert S. Philson.

FAIRHOPE TOWNSHIP

The last township formed in Somerset County and the smallest is **FAIRHOPE TOWNSHIP**. It was formed in 1891 from segments of Allegheny, Northampton, and Southampton Townships and is comprised of 8,409 acres or 13 square miles.

--- The Berlin Area 1777 - 1977

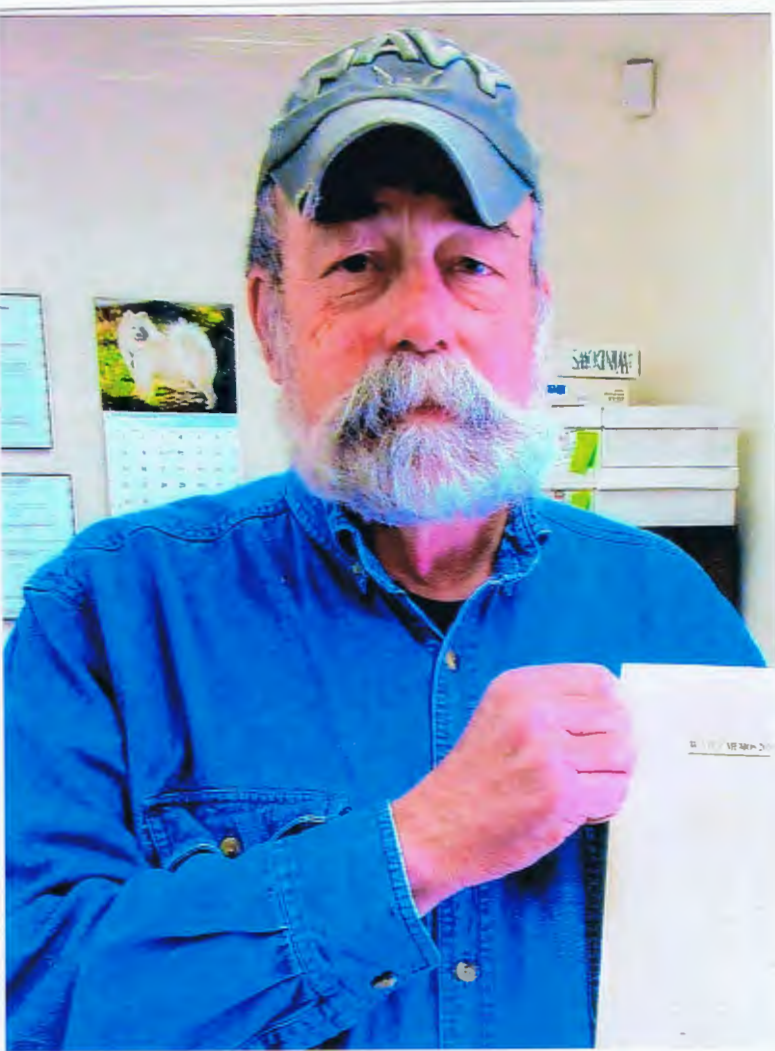
PLAYING MARBLES BEHIND THE VINE STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

Some of us Baby Boomers who attended the Berlin Elementary School on Vine Street have fond memories of playing marbles during recess on the dirt area behind the school. We had 'cat eye' marbles, clay marbles, and "steelies" in our marble pouches or cloth bags.

We often played "keeps" and whoever won the game, kept the other player's marble or a marble from his bag or pouch. At that time you could buy "cat eye" marbles at the Hershey's 5 & 10 cent store that occupied the current Berlin Post Office in the Crowe Building. Do you remember?



WELCOME: NEW BOARD MEMBER



RICHARD L. BERKLEY

Richard L. Berkley of Berlin is our new board member at the Berlin Area Historical Society as of January 2023. He replaces Robert G. Platt, who served as a board member in 2022 to fill out the unexpired term of the late Jim Suder.

Rich is a retired Somerset rural letter carrier, having grown up in the Listie area as a son of Glenn and April May (Rhodamer) Berkley.

NUMEROUS DONATIONS

The estate of **Clark and Pauline (Brant) Hoffman** donated copies of Berlin's Sesquicentennial and Berlin Area 1777-1977 history books. **Lois Heinbaugh** donated \$100.00. **Ruth (Pritts) Gilbert** donated 1931 and 1938 Berlin yearbooks and humorous records of Professor Herman F. Schnitzel.

Robert Landis donated four Valley 4-H scrapbooks. **Pastor Jay Shaffer** donated three tubs of memorabilia pertaining to the Brotherton 4-H Club.

JEFF YODER donated an aerial picture of the former Sherman and George Yoder farm in Stonycreek Township, now owned by the Charles and Eileen (Knepper) Horning family and farmed by the St. Clair family.

Bruce "Chip" Landis donated updated 2022 records and an updated map for the Berlin IOOF Cemetery.

We are searching for a picture of the large tree that once stood in the middle of the road where you turn off the Mason Dixon Highway to travel toward Goodtown.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your continual services!

David R. Hay, Curator

BERLIN'S LOWER DIAMOND



Main St. before the paving began. 1916.

A PHOTO FROM THE PHILSON-TAYLOR COLLECTION

Berlin, Pa., May 9

1912

At Robert Philson Est.

Berlin Pa.

To ZORN'S CASH FURNITURE STORE, Dr.

J. H. ZORN, Proprietor.

Parlor Suites, Bedroom Suites, Diningroom
Furniture, Springs, Mattresses, Etc.

Fine Furniture of All Kinds.

TERMS CASH.

Mar 31	To Basket	100	
	" Slumber Robe	5	
	" Embalming	10	
	" Hearse	6	
	" Eight Pages & Buggy	17 50	
		<u>\$ 138 50</u>	
	Less vanet	15 -	
		<u># 123 50</u>	

Received Payment in full June 5th 1912
John H. Zorn.

B. J. BOWMAN, UNDERTAKER

JOHN H. ZORN,

Manager and Embalmer of the B. J. Bowman undertaking establishment, has moved headquarters to Mr. Zorn's home on Diamond St., opposite Musser's blacksmith shop, where all calls, night or day, will be given prompt attention.

ECONOMY
PHONE 36

BERLIN, PA.

THE FUNERAL BILL FOR

ROBERT SAMUEL PHILSON, SR.

BORN: July 2, 1853

Died: March 31, 1912

Father of Marion "Dolly" (Philson)
Taylor of Division Street in Berlin.

June 24, 1910



THE FORMER SHERMAN AND GEORGE YODER FAMILY FARM IN STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP. CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE CHARLES AND EILEEN (KNEPPER) HORNING FAMILY AND OPERATED BY THE ST. CLAIR FAMILY.

PICTURE DONATED BY JEFFREY L. YODER

1-14-49

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BIG REDUCTIONS
ON
**DRESSES, COATS,
SKIRTS, SWEATERS**
COME IN
SEE THEM TODAY

MYRTLE M. WALKER'S
Style Shop
OPP. P. O. BERLIN, PA.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

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*Bil Keane
JEFF
KEANE*

"When Grandma was little she didn't have a TV remote. She just had her hand."

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