

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 12, 2021



THE MARION (DeLOZIER) COWAN HOME

**MARION'S DAUGHTERS: SUSAN JOHNSTON (HOME
OWNER) AND CHARLOTTE FULCHER!**

GLENCOE

DONATIONS FROM THE ESTATE OF RUTH (WILL) ROMESBERG



GALE (ROMESBERG) HAY DISPLAYS A PICTURE OF HER SON, KELBY HAY – A TEACHER IN THE SOMERSET AREA SCHOOLS. He IS STANDING BESIDE A 1941 INTERNATIONAL TRUCK DURING THE SUMMER FARM AUCTION HELD AT THE JIM AND BONNIE RINGLER FARM.

Gale Suzanne (Romesberg) Hay visited BAHS on November 11, 2020 to donate

numerous things on behalf of herself and her siblings. The items had been owned by their mother, Ruth (Will) Romesberg and earlier generations of the family.

The items donated included a large selection of older editions of the Memos and a copy of the PA Maple Festival's booklet for 1967, which was the year that Gale had the honor of serving as Queen Maple XX.

Other items donated were Carrie (Boyer) Will's cherry seeder and a variety of children's vintage clothing that came out of the Boyer and Will homes. Carrie was the mother of Ruth Romesberg. There were handmade lace items that were likely completed by Carrie to be attached to clothing items. Donated was a coin purse owned by Edward D. Boyer, Carrie's brother. We received a Whiskey Rebellion sweatshirt; two sunbonnets worn by Carrie Will, and likely a baptism dress.

There were several elementary school pictures from Shanksville Elementary School taken while Ruth Romesberg was a student; a 1950 Will family reunion group photo; and an identified photo of the 1927-1928 term of school students at the Glessner one-room school in Stonycreek Township.

Also from Ruth Romesberg's childhood was an illustrated booklet entitled "The Metropolitan Mother Goose" and other miscellaneous items.



Support
 Berlin Area Historical
 Society
 Building Fund

**Antique Auction
 and Sale**

**Friday Evening, May 13
 6:00 P.M. 1988**

BERLIN COMMUNITY BUILDING

Antique cradle and rocking chair, crocks, milk can, signed piece of cut glass, antique stained glass window, picture frames, plain bottom chairs, one owned by John Fletcher; Will family history, Reiman family history, old farm implements, old coins, small jewelry, cook stove, plus numerous other items.

Dan Will, Auctioneer
 AU-2096

RALPH STUCK'S GARAGE

From 1945 until 1967 Ralph Stuck operated his East End Garage at 1401 East Main Street in Berlin. Ralph's wife, Frances (Maust) Stuck was a teacher in the Berlin Brothersvalley School system.



Paul Pritts and Hazel Hillegas, from the Berlin Historical Society, show several old maps of the Berlin area and a Berlin Sesquicentennial book at the Berlin Community Fair. (Photo by Scott Shumaker)

1991

PAUL E. PRITTS was the original curator at the Berlin Area Historical Society. **HAZEL HILLEGAS** was a long-time secretary at the Berlin Elementary School.



Photo By George Menner

JOHN O. REAM was a former Berlin Postmaster.

LOUISE REAM was a former teacher in the Meyersdale School system.

Oct
 1987

Members of the John and Louise Ream needlepoint class created this scale

replica of the Main Street of Berlin as it appeared in the early 1900's.

HISTORY: BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

**FIFTY YEARS AGO: 1970 AUCTION
KLARENCE G. MILLER – EUGENE W. BITTNER**

THEN & NOW



**SUMMER DAY: 2020 (NEW HOUSE)
JOSEPH & TAMMY (WILHELM) McKENZIE**



**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN & EMMA MINERVA
(POORBAUGH) BITTNER FARM!**

Berlin Historical Society Buys Beachley Property



Photo by Fay Wentworth

Deed signing ceremonies were held Monday, June 6, in front of the Pius Spring when the Beachley - Heffley House was transferred from the Beachley family to the Berlin Historical Society. Taking part in the

ceremony are (seated, left to right) J. William Shultz, president of the society; John Beachley Sr., signing the deed; standing, (l. to r.) are: Tom Fisher, treasurer; Dick Deaner, Don Deist, vice president; Bill Slifco,

treasurer; John O. Ream, holding the original deed, chairman of the fund drive; Kim Hindman, Pat Brant and Doug Bell.

1988

**SIGNING THE DEED TO OBTAIN THE
BEACHLEY-HEFFLEY PROPERTY!**

JUNE 6, 1988

\$48,000 PRICE

HISTORY: BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

By Fay Wentworth
Staff Writer

A dream became reality Monday, June 6, 1988 when the Berlin Historical Society bought the site on Main Street, Berlin which contains the Beachley - Heffley House and the Pius Spring around which the town of Berlin was built.

Pius Spring provides the headwaters for the Stonycreek River and was the main source of water for Berlin when it was established in 1777.

Berlin Historical Society was formed in 1976 and their goal was to one day buy the property from the John Beachley Sr. family. The house which is currently being rented, will remain as it is for some time to come. Although the society was able to pay the \$48,000 immediately, the rent from the house will continue to pay the taxes and miscellaneous bills as well as begin a treasury until such a time as they are able to turn the property into an historical meeting place filled with artifacts from the early history of Berlin.

Although the society had a few fund-raising events, most of the money came from donations and matching funds from the Lutheran Brotherhood.

The one sad part of the story is that one of its most avid supporters, Elizabeth "Libby" (Landis) Merrill, died before she could see the project completed.

Members of the Berlin Historical Society are: J. William Shultz, president; Donald Deist, vice president; Bill Slifco, treasurer; John O. Ream, chairman of the building fund; Dorothy Sue Slifco, secretary of the building committee; Calvin Will, Kathryn Bell, Ann Slifco, Dorothy Killius, Cynthia Coleman, Carol Clarke, Mary Caton, Eleanor Mae Maust, Emma Grace Deaner, Richard Deaner, Edna Deist, Mary Elizabeth Will, Louise Ream, Roger Clarke and Helen Croner.

The society is currently looking forward to gathering more of Berlin's history, now that they have obtained a place in which to store and display them.



Photo by Fay Wentworth

The Rev. Melvin Kurk, right, accepts a Spanish Mill Dollar, a token payment for the Pius Spring, from J. William Shultz, president of the Berlin Historical Society. The dollar, which was known as the "Livery of Siesin" was paid each year to the church as rent.



Photo by Fay Wentworth

Members of the Berlin Historical Society had reason to beam with joy Monday, June 6. That was the night they bought the Beachley - Heffley House on Main Street, Berlin. Shown here are: (front, l. to r.) Calvin Will,

Donald Deist, vice president; Kathryn Bell, Tom Fisher, treasurer; Bill Shultz, president; John O. Ream, chairman of the committee; Dorothy Sue Slifco, secretary; Ann Slifco, Bill Slifco, treasurer; and Dorothy Killius;

(standing, l. to r.) Eleanor Mae Maust, Emma Grace Deaner, Richard Deaner, Edna Deist, Mary Elizabeth Will, Louise Ream, Roger Clarke, and Helen Croner. Absent were Cynthia Coleman, Bill Slifco, treasurer; and Dorthy Killius;



TWINS: RONALD J. & DONALD R. RAYMAN 2001



BERLIN AREA FARM BOYS 2001

Left to right: Luther E. Walker, Robert D. Foor & John S. Landis

YESTERYEAR MEMORIES



Left to right: C. Scott Miller, Edgar “Ed” Sarver, and Ronald “Sap” Maust.

Picture donated by Ronald “Sap” Maust. It was taken on Berlin’s upper diamond beside Ken Lafferty’s car lot while the young men were seated on Sap’s 1965 Ford Mustang fastback.

On October 1, 1908 Henry Ford introduced his **MODEL T** automobile to the market.

DAVID R. HAY, CURATOR