

# **CURATOR'S REPORT**

## **THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**JANUARY 13, 2026**



**THE WAY IT WAS 99 YEARS AGO IN 1927**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2026**

## Somerset County Officials 1927

President Judge—Hon. John A. Berkey.  
 District Attorney—P. G. Cober.  
 County Commissioners—J. H. Bender, P. A. Kreger, Josiah J. Stahl.  
 County Engineer—Maj. Phil A. Shaffer.  
 County Surveyor—C. S. Younkin, Confluence, Pa.  
 County Treasurer—Don M. Kimmel.  
 Recorder of Deeds—Harry S. Airsman.  
 Prothonotary—Harry F. Bittner.  
 Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphans' Court—Adam G. Berkebile.  
 Sheriff—Martin L. Markel.  
 Clerk of Criminal Court—Ira Friedline.  
 County Probation Officer—A. D. Shaffer, Somerset, Pa.  
 Female Probation Officer—Mrs. Margaret Tedrow, Somerset, Pa.  
 Directors of the Poor—Elbridge C. Kyle, John O. Ream, W. A. Coleman.  
 Superintendent County Home and Hospital—Dr. Henry Wilson, Somerset, Pa.  
 Jury Commissioners—James I. Weigle, Frank B. Fluck.  
 County Auditors—Edward Mostoller, Jacob S. Miller, A. R. Dallam.  
 County Superintendent of Schools—W. H. Kretchman, Somerset, Pa.  
 Deputy County Superintendents of Schools—M. R. Schrock, A. B. Cober.  
 County Inspector of Weights and Measures—A. J. Weimer, Friedens, Pa.  
 County Farm Bureau Agent—Cecil C. McDowell, Somerset, Pa.

## Our Legislative Representatives

Representative in Congress—Hon. Samuel A. Kendall, Meyersdale.  
 United States Senators—Hon. WM. S. VARE, Philadelphia; Hon. David A. Reed, Pittsburgh.  
 State Senator—Hon. Chas. H. Ealy, Somerset, Pa.  
 Representatives in the General Assembly—Hon. Charles I. Shaffer, Ralphton, Pa.; Hon. H. H. Shumaker, Rockwood, Pa.

## Post Offices of Somerset County

Acosta,	Fort Hill, (1)	Landstreet,	Rummel,
Addison,	Friedens, (2)	Listie,	Salisbury,
Arrow,	Gahagen,	Listonburg,	Sand Patch, (2)
Barronvale,	Garrett, (2)	Macdonaldton,	Scullton,
Beams,	Glade,	Mance,	Seanor,
Bell,	Glencoe, (1)	Maple Ridge,	Shanksville,
Berlin, (5)	Gray,	Markleton, (1)	Sipesville,
Boswell, (2)	Havego,	Meyersdale, (4)	Somerfield, (1)
Boynton,	Harnedsville,	Miller Run,	Somerset, (6)
Cairnbrook, (2)	Holsopple, (2)	New Baltimore,	Springs,
Casselman,	Hoooversville, (2)	New Lexington,	Stoyestown, (3)
Central City,	Jenners,	Ogletown,	Tire Hill,
Coleman,	Jennerstown,	Quecreek,	Ursina, (1)
Confluence (2)	Jerome,	Ralphton,	Wellersburg,
Davidsville,	Kantner,	Rockingham,	Wells creek,
Fairhope, (1)	Kimmilton,	Rockwood, (2)	West Salisbury,
			Windber, (1)

Figures to left of names indicate number of rural routes.

## I WAS A FRIED POTATO GUY!

By David R. Hay

As I move through these wonderful retirement years, I've never lost my taste for another helping of raw fried potatoes. I could eat them four or five times a week and never grow tired of what I consider a treat for the taste buds. At least once a week with a cooked breakfast including eggs and bacon, my wife, Virginia adds a helping of raw fried potatoes. While they are always delicious, I always keep hoping for twice as many as she manages to heap upon my plate.

Fried potatoes are probably my top choice for preparing potatoes although I'm told they are not the healthiest choice for meal time. Whether they are prepared with a little onion, bacon grease, or just fried brown in the skillet, my eyes light up and my stomach wants to shout out its approval anytime a plate of fried potatoes comes to greet me at the table.

As a farm boy, mother made raw fried potatoes often to accompany one of her home-cooked meals. As mother was peeling raw potatoes, the hands of my siblings and me were often extended while begging for a slice or two of raw potatoes. We liked to eat them raw with a little salt added as the peelings were dropping into mother's waste pan. And then in a little while when the meal with farm-raised meat was served, there was a lifting dish heaping with browned raw fried potatoes for each of the family to take a share to add to their dinner or supper plate.

Often in the mornings for breakfast there was bacon to be added to the skillet as eggs were fried in the bacon grease to please our hungry stomachs. Throwing in a few raw potatoes to be fried with the breakfast added another level of delight to what I sometimes referred to a "breakfast fit for a king!"

Back in the childhood years we raised our own chickens that laid plenty of eggs while potatoes were relatively cheap in the Berlin A&P grocery store and sometimes raised in our truck patch on our farm. While mashed potatoes, cooked saltwater potatoes with new lettuce, baked potatoes and scalloped potatoes were appreciated and tasty, nothing fit the meals better than another batch of fried potatoes. In my youth, French fried potatoes weren't on our menus, but in later years after first enjoying them in Mae Foor's kitchen, they also became a favorite potato for meal time.

Life has been an interesting journey with so many changes and introductions to new foods and inventions. Yet today nothing is more pleasing than when the electric stove heats up to another iron skillet containing raw fried potatoes that this fried potato guy delights in consuming!





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### **THE GLADES ONE-ROOM SCHOOL IN STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP**

Richard Berkley reported at our October 2025 meeting that the Glades School windows were all reglazed and new locks were installed. The shingles and bird hole have also been repaired/replaced. The school will be in need of new window frames and the roof is in need of replacement as upcoming projects.



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**Linda (Hoyman) Coddington stands in front of one of Somerset Trust Company's billboards that feature her beautiful paintings.**



## WE MOURN THE PASSING OF MEGAN ANN EVANS

In Megan's years as a board member of the Berlin Area Historical Society, she was continually busy working on one of our projects. She was an enthusiastic board member representing Stonycreek Township. She and Bob Schmucker were always thrilled to open up the Glade one-room school house to provide tours to individuals or groups. With her electronic tablet in hand, Megan would frequently look up useful information at our board meetings. She worked diligently recording the information collected by the inventory persons onto a computer to put the entries into our system.

She occasionally filled in for Betty Chaney, our secretary, by recording the minutes of our meetings. She often volunteered to take on projects that no one else felt comfortable or knowledgeable to do. One of the major projects that she completed was editing the society's cookbook in 2023. For some years she enjoyed being in charge of the entries for recipes and hints printed in our quarterly Memos.



Some of our board members will remember the summer of 2019 when more than a dozen of us and our spouses had the opportunity to tour her historical former farmhouse in Stonycreek Township. We enjoyed delicious food that day and tasty home-baked pie that was one of Megan's specialties.

Megan grew up in Castle Shannon and had a career in social services while raising her children and foster children. She worked as a case worker for the Department of Welfare, was a licensed social worker for the foster care program at the Children's Aide Home of Somerset County and retired as the ACCESS/Mental Health Coordinator for IU08. Also according to her obituary, Megan was passionate about family, community work, and learning. She was an amazing cook,



loved to bake, was a pie aficionado, an avid gardener, fond of canning and always had a knack for sewing. She knew how to make a house a home! Megan was an avid reader, historian, and greatly enjoyed genealogical research. She could fix just about anything, loved to travel, enjoyed collecting antiques and was a wonderful friend and caring neighbor to the Amish, a sit-down assistant, optimist and survivor till the end.

Megan was a devoted member of Unity United Church of Christ where she was active member of the Church Care Committee, a deacon, and past president of the consistory. She made time to volunteer at Camp Living Waters. Megan was so much more than this tribute conveys. This beautiful lady was our friend and enjoyed assisting so willingly with our projects.

Megan graduated from Keystone Oaks High School in 1966 as a straight-A student. She earned her bachelor's degree from West Virginia University in 1970 and prided herself on having her MSW Degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002 at the age of 52.

Megan was the loving mother of Sara Glessner, Christopher Glessner, and Andrew Glessner and the devoted foster mother of Joan Bickham and Tracey Blake

Board members, relatives, church members and friends attended a touching memorial service in honor of Megan's life on December 5 at Unity United Church of Christ.

## MEGAN WAS A PIE AFICIONADO



**M**egan displays one of the delicious blueberry pies she baked for board members and their spouses that had the pleasure of visiting her home in Stonycreek Township in 2019. She provided a history and tour of her historical home - complete with antiques and collectibles.

The group also gathered on the porch for a memorable group picture. The night before, she welcome members of the Hillcrest Grange for a home tour, as well as food and fellowship.



THE FORMER RAY A. AND SARA JANE (LAMBERT) GLESSNER FARM IN BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP. (HOUSE NO LONGER THERE). THIS FARM WAS ONCE OWNED BY CYRUS AND EMMA (SCHROCK) WALKER. THE WALKER'S DAUGHTER, EMMA WAS MARRIED TO EDWARD B. GLESSNER. EDWARD AND EMMA GLESSNER WERE THE PARENTS OF HARRY H. GLESSNER (1890-1979), WHO MARRIED (1<sup>ST</sup>) EMILY McLUCKIE. HARRY AND EMILY GLESSNER WERE THE PARENTS OF RAY A. GLESSNER. A LITTLE HISTORY OF THE GLESSNER-WALKER.

PICTURE DONATED BY CHRISTINE (GLESSNER) HEMMINGER FROM THE ESTATE OF HER PARENTS, WILLIAM AND SHIRLEY (FLAMM) GLESSNER.

## THE RAY & JANE GLESSNER HOME HAS BEEN TORN DOWN

Ray A. Glessner (1918-1981) was a retired potato and dairy farmer. He was also a former director of Pro-FAC. He and his wife, Sarah Jane (Lambert) Glessner were members of Trinity United Church of Christ in Berlin. Their daughter, Barbara was married to the late Donald Poorbaugh, a retired teacher at the Berlin Brothersvalley High School. Their three children are Scott, Gail, and Eric Poorbaugh.

Ray's father, Harry H. Glessner (1890-1979) was a former teacher, farmer, and a retired field man for the U.S. Government Conservation Service. He was living in Miami, Florida at the time of his passing at 89 years.

Thank you to our many volunteers for your dedicated services in 2025. Wishing you good health, happiness, and continued dedication to the Berlin Area Historical Society in 2026.

David R. Hay, Curator





THOUGHT I'D GET  
RIGHT TO THE  
**SEAT** OF THE MATTER!

## **THE OLD-TIME OUTHOUSE**

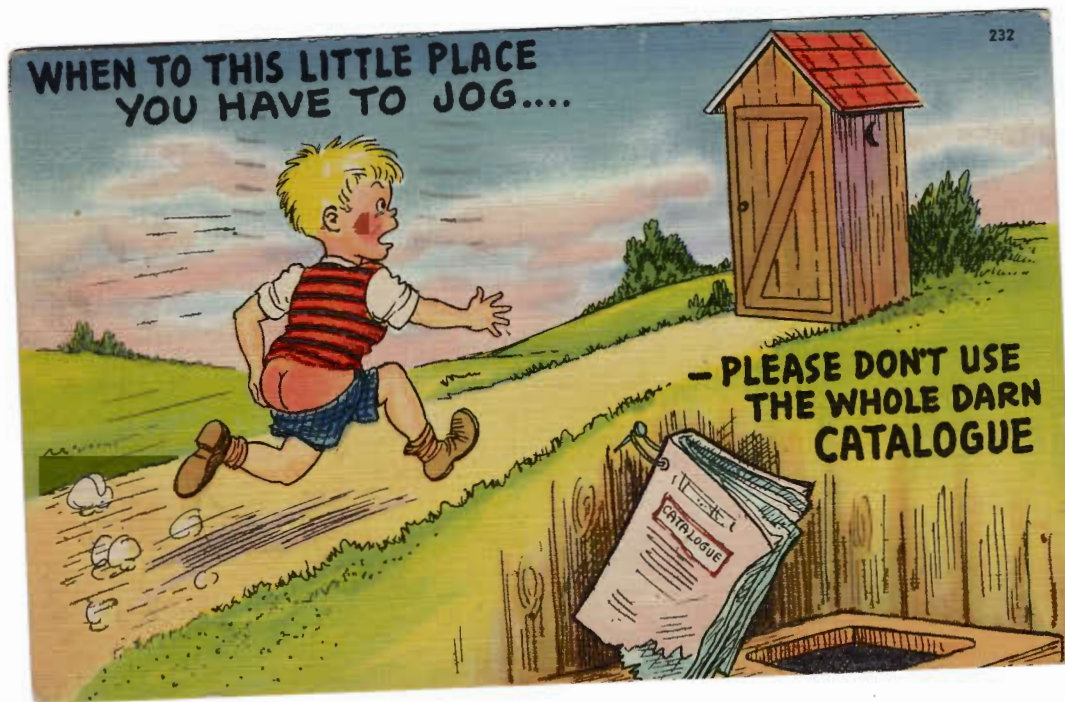
**It stands behind the homestead,  
Landscaped with h edges high,  
It is the old-time outhouse  
We used in days gone by.**

**How many times we shivered  
And bared the elements  
To walk to that old outhouse  
In those years way back when.**

**Though plumbing has outmoded  
This outhouse that we used  
It stands as a reminder  
Of other days we knew.**

**By Louise Pinkerton Fritz**

## **THAT LITTLE HOUSE OUT BACK!**



DON'T MEAN TO BE A **STOOL** PIGEON  
BUT... HAVE YOU HEARD?

### DONATIONS:

**Cindy Flamm** donated a series of pictures taken during the Pious Springs Home Tours in November. **Donald Stotler** donated 4 arrowheads. Inclement weather kept the attendance low for the **Colonial Christmas** at the Humble House. **Cindy Hoover** donated 1955, 1957 and 1958 Berlin class play programs. **Gwen Engle Ottaviano** donated a collection of Memos. **Cathy Fleegle** donated two Berlin plates. **David Hurst**, a reporter for the Tribune Democrat, conducted an interview on Snyder's of Berlin. It made the front page of the Johnstown Tribune Democrat. Interviewed were Karen Bittner, Leanna Coughenour - two former employees at Snyder's, Gary Estnick and David Hay.

We have a supply of **Cat's Meows** of **St. Gregory Catholic Church** in Macdonaldton for sale. **Christine (Glessner) Hemminger** donated additional items from the estate of her parents, William and Shirley Glessner. Donations included children's toys, plates, and blocks; books, a Sanitary Dairy milk bottle and other milk bottles, the marriage certificate of Leroy W. Glessner and Sadie Engle on October 21, 1908 in Roxbury; miscellaneous items, a picture of the Cyrus Walker farm house (later the home of Ray and Jane (Lambert) Glessner). **Leanna Coughenour** and **Karen Bittner** have spent time identifying pictures relating to Berlin's Last Man's Club.



**THAT LITTLE HOUSE OUT BACK!**





**KAREN BITTNER AND LEANNA COUGHENOUR – BOTH  
FORMER EMPLOYEES OF SNYDER'S OF BERLIN  
PROVIDING INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE  
POTATO CHIPS MADE IN BERLIN**



**DAVID HURST, A REPORTER FOR THE JOHNSTOWN  
TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT CONDUCTING AN  
INTERVIEW OF SNYDER'S OF BERLIN**

**TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT INTERVIEW**

**SNYDER'S OF BERLIN**

**POTATO CHIP SYNONOMOUS WITH BERLIN**





HUMBLE HOUSE DURING THE PIOUS SPRINGS CHRISTMAS HOME TOURS. PHOTOS TAKEN AND DONATED | BY CINDY FLAMM