

CURATOR'S REPORT
THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY 13, 2021



**FARM OF ALVIN C. JR. & RUTH
FISHER**

**THE FORMER ROY M. & HELEN
ENGLE FARM!**

STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP

JOHN BRUBAKER – REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER HONORED!



Brubaker's new memorial gravestone placed at the Veteran's Plaza in the Berlin Community Grove!

A special ceremony was held in June 2021 by the Great Glades Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution honoring John Brubaker, a patriot of the American Revolution. The ceremony was held at the Veteran's Plaza in the Berlin Community Grove.

John Brubaker served in the Lancaster County militia during the war. He and his wife, Anna (Musser) Brubaker, moved to Brothersvalley Township in the late 1700s according to a story published in the Somerset Daily American. The Brubaker family lived on what has historically been known as the Jacob Glessner farm along the Beulah Road in Brothersvalley Township. In more recent years the farm was known as the Ray Carver farm, currently owned by Black Horse Land Co.

Revolutionary War patriot Brubaker died and was buried on his farm in 1803. His grave and his patriotic efforts had never been celebrated or recognized prior to the SAR ceremony. The precise location of his grave has been lost to history, as the farm's family cemetery is no longer in existence. The burial grounds was visible during the 1930s when the Works Progress Administration completed its cemetery surveys.

Permission was granted by the Berlin Brothersvalley School District to place the memorial gravestone on its property in the Berlin Grove. The Brubaker memorial is placed adjacent to the Veteran's Plaza. The Berlin Grove property was also originally a part of the Brubaker farm. The Berlin Area Historical Society's treasurer, Stewart R. Saylor is also the current president of the Great Glades Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.



JOHN BRUBAKER'S NEW MEMORIAL



JIM MCKENZIE was photographed painting the railings at the Berlin Area Historical Society.

ON THESE DATES:

June 14, 1922 – Warren G. Harding became the first president heard on radio, as Baltimore station WEAR broadcast his speech dedicating the Francis Scott Key memorial at Fort McHenry.

June 14, 1954 – President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure adding the phrase “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance.

March 25, 1954 – RCA announced it had begun producing color television sets at its plant in Bloomington, Indiana.



“I got the mail for you, Mommy!”

THE MAILMAN'S LITTLE 'HELPER!'

REMEMBERING WILLIAM HENRY BENDER AS SOMERSET COUNTY'S LAST LIVING CIVIL WAR VETERAN



Descendants of William Bender participated in a memorial service held by the Mount Union Camp No. 502 Auxiliary and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the Berlin IOOF Cemetery on June 20, 2021. Placing a wreath at Bender's grave with the insignia "Hero" are Debbie (Harkcom) Cotter, Tom Fisher – Civil War Historian, Carissa Croner, Milt Snyder and Carrie (Snyder) Croner. In front are Brothers Caleb, Colt and Caden Snyder. (Photo arranged by Sandra Lepley).

WILLIAM "BILLY" HENRY BENDER REMEMBERED

William "Billy" Bender was remembered on June 20, 2021 at an afternoon ceremony at the Berlin IOOF Cemetery for being the last living Civil War veteran in Somerset County. The local legend, who resided for many years along North Street in Berlin, lived from March 15, 1845 to December 11, 1940. He died at the age of 95 years. Mount Union Camp No. 502 Auxiliary and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War erected a marker at Bender's gravesite during a special ceremony.

William Bender and his wife, the former Sarah Rumiser, had 10 children. One of the daughters was Euclid, who married Ralph "Dutch" Groff, the long-time clothing store owner in Berlin. One line of descendants (through Euclid) were in attendance through Euclid's daughter and son-in-law, Audrey and Ronald Harkcom.

Children of two of the Harkcom's daughters, Connie Updyke and Debbie Cotter attended and are pictured. Debbie and her husband Carl Brian Cotter attended as did Connie's children, Carrie Croner and husband, Nathan and daughter, Carissa Croner, as well as Milt Snyder and his three sons, twins Caleb and Caden, and Colt Snyder.



LEANNE CALVERT AND ASHLEY GRIFFITH ARE PICTURED ASSISTING WITH PREPARATIONS TO GET THE SUMMER MEMOS READY FOR MAILING. ASHLEY HAS BEEN AN APPRECIATED SUMMER VOLUNTEER! ASHLEY, A BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE, IS A TEACHER IN THE NORTH STAR SCHOOL DISTRICT.



ADMIRING FORMER ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL GEORGE DIVELY'S DESK ARE THESE BBHS 1966 GRADUATES WHO WERE HELPING TO PLAN THEIR 55TH YEAR CLASS REUNION. SEATED; JOY (GRIFFITH) GARDNER AND CHARLENE (HOPPERT) NORRIS. STANDING; DALE DEEM, SALLIE (ADAMS) SWEITZER, SHERRY (ENGLEKA) NOAKES, CONNIE (LANDIS) SLOPE, AND JOHN COUGHENOUR. NOT PICTURED IS DAVID HAY, BEHIND THE CAMERA!

TWO BOOK CASES ADDED TO THE VAULT AT BAHS!



LEE LOWRY DONATED THIS BOOKCASE FOR HIS FORBES ROAD HISTORICAL LIBRARY



WE BOUGHT THIS FORMER AMUZEMENT CENTER AND JOHN LONG HAS MADE SOME IMPROVEMENTS THAT INCLUDED ADDING A SHELF!

SHANKSVILLE STONYCREEK EIGHTH GRADE CLASS



ROW 1: Matt Buratty, Brian Swank, Steven Mostoller, Brett Barkman, Bill Shultz. ROW 2: Brian Miller, Julie Stull, Shannon Timulak, Amanda Slingluff, Lisa Jack, Becky Rose. ROW 3: Brooke Wilt, Michelle Hinton, John Creegan, Dean Snyder, Tim May, Lynda Abramowich, Danny Walsh.



ROW 1: Danny Dively, Philip Deen, Sean Dively, David Moon, Chris Chapman. ROW 2: Barb Kimmel, Becky Hillegas, Brian Trent, Tracy Spangler, Laura Phillips, Barb Smith. ROW 3: John Bollman, Robert Snyder, Danny Brant, Leigh Wagner, Kevin Foy, Eric Frazier, Sherry Custer.

DONATIONS

Kay Ann Cober donated various sports program booklets and newspaper clippings pertaining to Berlin Brothersvalley sports, track and field medals, ball caps, and miscellaneous items. **Mandy Cooper** identified the 2021 BBHS senior graduates picture. Charles "Ed" Rhodes has surveyed the newly donated Croner lot. **Ken Miller** shopped for and delivered a new dehumidifier for our office basement. We purchased an entertainment center from the Berlin Thrift Shop. **John Long** delivered it and added a new shelf so we can use it as a book case in the vault.

LuAnn Walker donated miscellaneous items including: Wayne and Joan Bowser's writing certificates; Nov 1948 Berlin High School senior photos displayed on a place mat; Philson National Bank cloth pouch; John Thomas advertising coin pouch; and various advertising items from the First National Bank and the Philson Bank, Lafferty Chevrolet license plates and a magazine profile highlighting Snyder's of Berlin.

The Berlin IOOF Cemetery Association donated an updated listing of cemetery interments. A circular about the Berlin Area Historical Society was mailed to all patrons in the Fairhope mail route. The first Fairhope membership subscription came from **Rodger and Diane Grenke**. **Ashley Griffith** started volunteering and has been working on the inventory. **Stew Saylor** donated the book, "Mother Bedford and the American Revolution" by Larry D. Smith. Thanks to our volunteers for their services. **David R. Hay, Curator**

CRONER LOT DONATED



GREG AND JUDY CRONER HAVE DONATED THE ABOVE PICTURED LOT ACROSS FROM OUR BARN TO BAHS FOR WHICH OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE APPROVED ISSUING LIFE MEMBERSHIPS TO THE COUPLE!