

# CURATOR'S REPORT

## THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 10, 2014

### JEAN WALKER DONATES WALKER FAMILY PICTURES AND DOCUMENTS!

**JEAN LOUISE WALKER**, a retired Johnstown resident and member of the Berlin Area Historical Society, visited both the family graves in the Berlin IOOF Cemetery and BAHS on Memorial Day weekend. Jean, who is the last of her family, presented us with historical pictures and other treasures that she felt belonged in the Berlin area. The pictures include valuable pictures of her family, the former George and Benjamin Walker farm (which is currently owned by Jim and Phyllis Flamm) in Brothersvalley Township, Walker – Hoffman genealogy, and miscellaneous items.

Jean is the daughter of the late Frank Eugene and Velma Ruth (Livingston) Walker. Her father was a brother of the late Florence (Walker) Bingner, a teacher for 47 years in the Berlin and one-room school houses. She began teaching in 1909 in Brothersvalley Township. She taught 10 years at Berlin High School before winding up her tenure in the Berlin elementary school. For most of her teaching career she was Florence “Flossie” Walker and later in life she married Lincoln Samuel Bingner of Berlin, who worked at the nursery in Reels Corner.



**FLORENCE (WALKER) BINGNER  
BERLIN AREA EDUCATOR FOR 47 YEARS**



**JEAN WALKER DISPLAYS PHOTO OF  
HER FATHER, FRANK E. WALKER**



**THE WALKER – FLAMM FARM HOUSE**

**FRANK EUGENE WALKER** grew up on his parent's farm while attending the one-room Walker School house along the Plank Road. He graduated in 1917 from Berlin High School where Ira J. Cober was a good friend and neighbor. As a young man, Frank found employment at the Bethlehem Steel Mills in Johnstown, where he worked four years before beginning his long career of 43 years as a city letter carrier in the Johnstown Post Office. He carried mail 17 years in East Conemaugh and 26 years in the Oakhurst Section of Johnstown.

Frank was a son of George and Mary (Hoffman) Walker and grew to adulthood on his parent's farm. His parents' farm land came off the original farm of George's parents, Benjamin G. and Juliann (Coleman) Walker, which older folks in our community knew as "Buffalo Valley Farm", which was owned by three generations of the Hay family, namely Hiram P., Walter E. and Paul E. Hay.

The children of George and Mary Walker were Herbert George, Emma Grace Eicher, Florence Ruth Bingner, Richard H., and Frank Eugene. Among the items donated with family pictures were copies of the March 23, 1926 auction conducted at the family farm by George Walker. A second auction was conducted on April 10, 1937 at the farm by Auctioneer Bruce Lane of Brush Creek for Mary Walker, following the passing of her husband. (That is likely about the time the Walker farm passed into the ownership of Henry I. and Mary Flamm, the parents of current owner, Jim Flamm.

After the farm was sold Mary (Hoffman) Walker and her daughter, Florence Walker moved into Berlin. For awhile they resided on Diamond Street and later to an apartment above the former Homer Croner Hardware Store.

It was interesting to visit with Jean Walker, whom I've known for more than 20 years through her attendance at two of the Jacob Walker family reunions. I admired several of the pictures she donated at those reunions and now we are so blessed to have those pictures in our archives. It's not often that I can find knowledgeable persons to talk about old timers that lived in my childhood neighborhood so I relished the opportunity to visit with Jean.

# PUBLIC SALE

The undersigned will offer at public sale at his residence  
2 1/2 miles south of Berlin on

**TUESDAY, MARCH 23, '26**  
**AT 12:30 P. M.**

the following personal property:

Two horses, 4 cows, 4 yearlings, 4 pigs, 1 Deering binder, 1 Deering mower, 1 Hoosier grain drill, 1 wagon, 1 hay rack, hay rake, sled, sleigh, 2 buggies, harness, plow, harrow, corn planter, oats, corn, hay.

Stoves, beds, chairs, carpets, bureau, cupboard, stands, iron kettles, sausage grinder and lard press, butcher table, cream separator Sharples No. 2, butter churn and tub, meat stands, crocks, jars, tubs and other articles not listed.

**TERMS MADE KNOWN ON DAY OF SALE**

J. C. TUCKER,  
*Auctioneer*

**GEORGE WALKER**

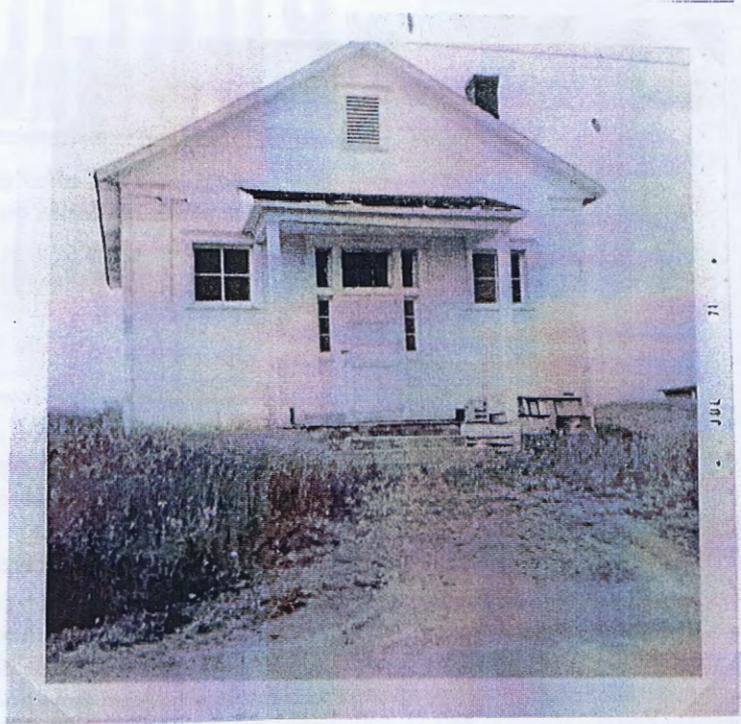
**MARY (HOFFMAN) AND GEORGE WALKER**  
**1926 SALE BILL AT THE GEORGE WALKER FARMSTEAD**

**CABLE & SUDER GROCERIES, ICE CREAM AND SODA – BERLIN**

This business is imprinted on a small, metal token that David Hay was successful in purchasing at the auction of the late Ethel (Friedline) Rayman (widow of Earl C. Rayman) in the village of Sipesville on May 31, 2014. Does anyone have any ideas as to where this business was located in Berlin and who were the proprietors? You never know what is going to turn up at auctions! That's what makes them so interesting to attend!



## THE ONE-ROOM FAIRVIEW SCHOOL IN BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP



**M**ARYLOU (LANDIS) WALKER, wife of Ben Walker of Pittsburgh, has donated a collection of identified Fairview School group pictures and the above picture of the former Fairview School to BAHS. She has also shared interesting history and remembrances of the school, which was located in Brothersvalley Township near the northwestern edge of Berlin and near the former Brothersvalley Township election house. The group pictures of the students were all taken during the period of 1931 to the fall of 1937 when the “new” Berlin Brothersvalley High School opened.

Catherine “Cay” (Musser) Rhoads described their experiences at Fairview School in a 2000 letter: “Can’t believe the real life experiences we shared at Fairview School and the basics we learned... pot belly stove, outdoor privies, primitive water supply (a jug), no school bus, no gym, no cafeteria, no library, no segregation, no school nurse, no kindergarten, no mass shootings, but lots of happy times in spite of the poverty.”

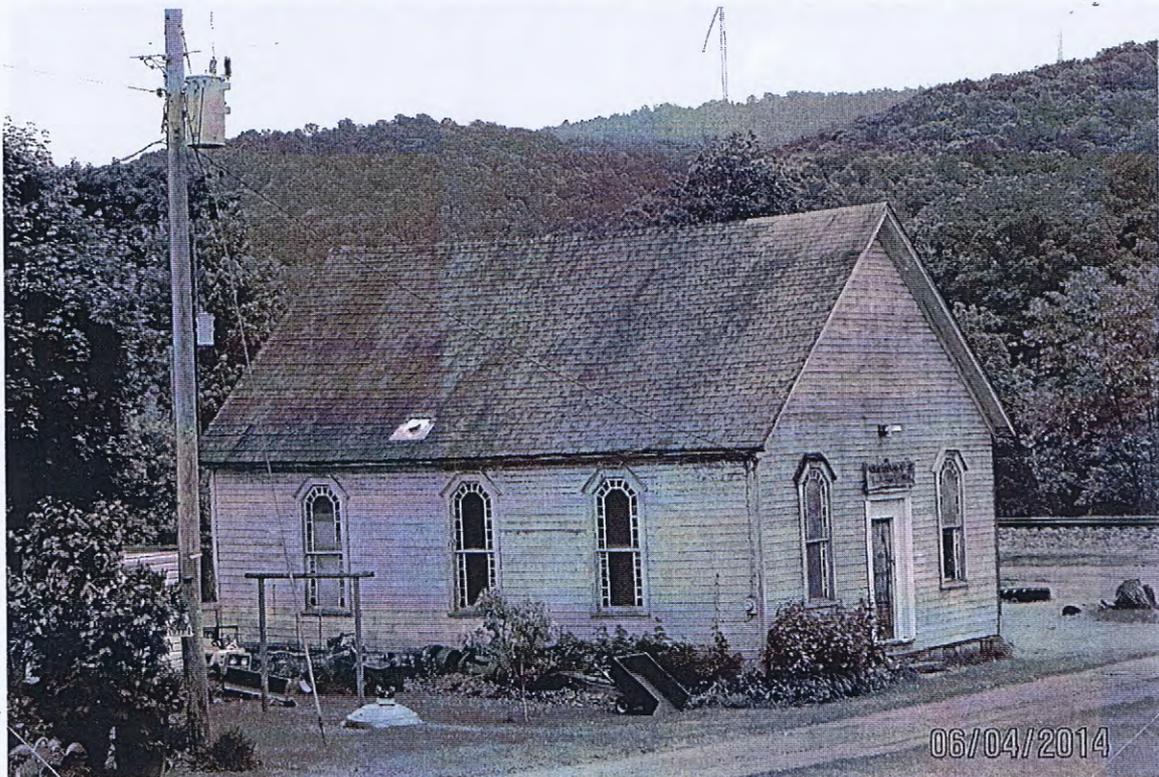
Marylou believes their one-room school teachers deserved a gold badge for courage. She is sure their pay checks weren’t an incentive for the teaching job. The teachers while Marylou attended the school included Rae Sivits, Elsie Lehman Meyers, John Hentz, Helen Shober Ward and Elinor Glessner. After more than 60 years that Fairview School was closed, some of the former pupils organized a school reunion. It was held at Cay and Bill Rhoads barn outside of Berlin in the spring of 2000. The response was terrific. Former pupils got the information out to the survivors. There were 22 former students as well as their spouses. Everybody had a good time reminiscing and some wanted to do it again. Some traveled from Florida, Baltimore and Ohio. Salvaging 22 former students was some great accomplishment. Each one attending had a life’s story and produced some great interesting people. (A group picture of those attending was also donated by Marylou!)

Marylou also wrote: “I wished that I could have spent more time with each one. The evening passed by too quickly!”

# THIRTY YEARS AFTER THE GLENCOE FLOOD OF 1984!

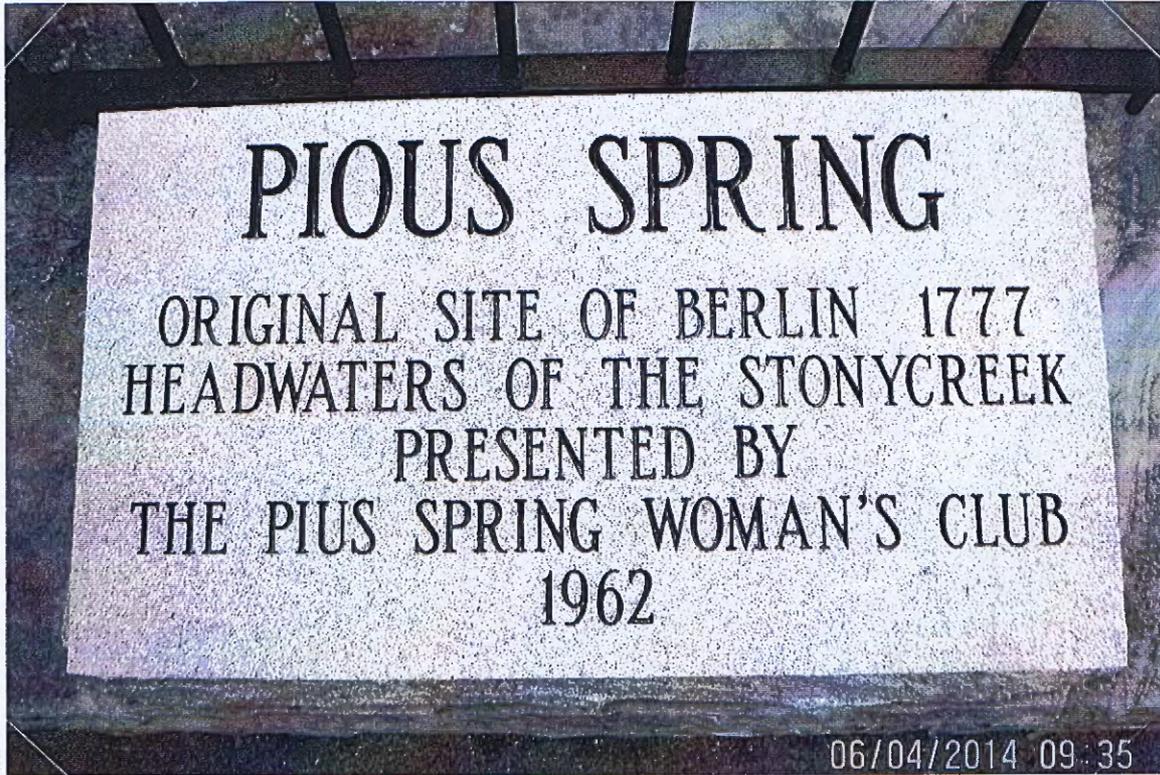


**BILL RAUPACH POINTS TO THE CRUMBLING RETAINING WALL  
ALONG WILLS CREEK – 30 YEARS AFTER THE AUGUST 13, 1984**

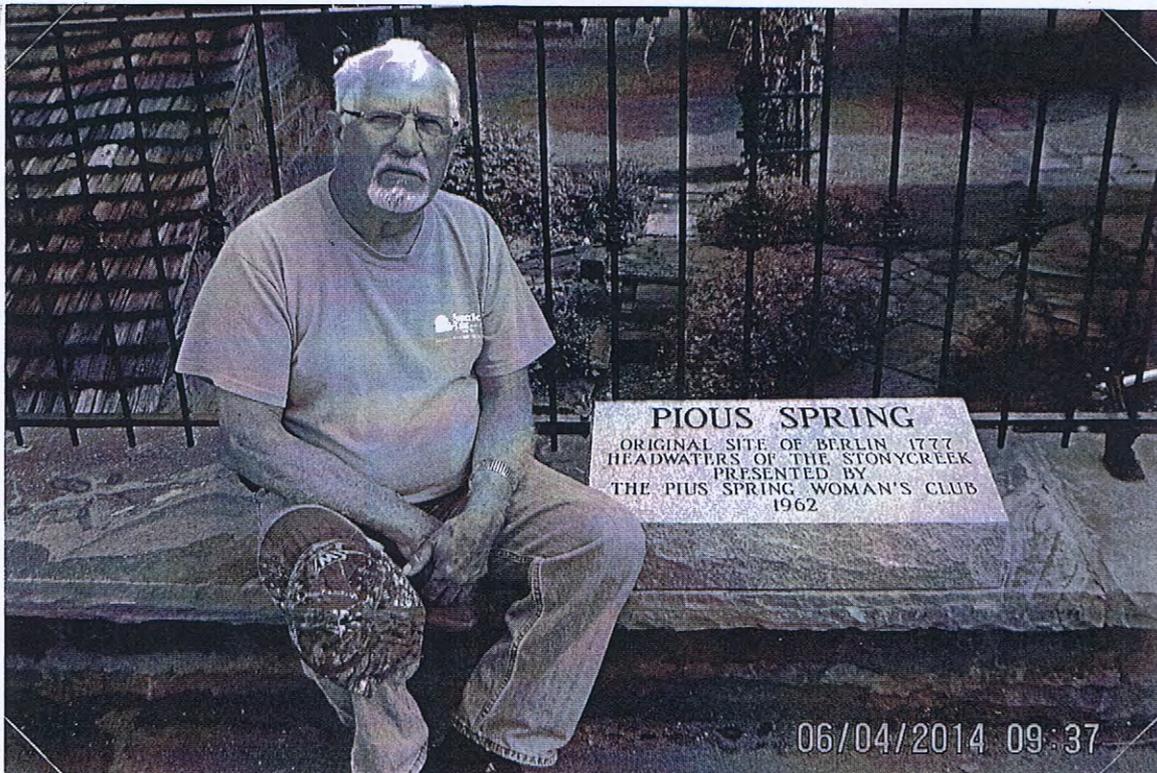


**THE GLENCOE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB – FORMERLY THE  
GLENCOE EVANGELICAL (UNITED METHODIST) CHURCH**

# PIOUS SPRING REPLACEMENT MEMORIAL!



**THIS SPRING THE PIUS SPRING WOMAN'S CLUB WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS REPLACEMENT MEMORIAL!**



**LARRY PRITTS RELAXES ON THE NEW FACING STONES BESIDE THE REPAINTED FENCING AND THE REPLACEMENT MEMORIAL**

## TWO MACDONALDTON WIVES OF IMMIGRANT MINERS DIED NINETEEN DAYS APART IN 1953!

My Jesus have mercy on the Soul of

**MRS. SUSAN STAPINSKI**

Born: June 29, 1880

Died: April 13, 1952

O gentlest Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls, have mercy on the soul of Thy departed servant. Be not severe in Thy judgment but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames, and do Thou O Merciful Saviour, send Thy Angels to conduct Thy departed servant to a place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Merciful Jesus grant eternal rest.

(100 Days for each aspiration)

JOHNSON & SON  
FUNERAL HOME  
BERLIN, PA.

My Jesus have mercy on the Soul of

**SUSIE GOOD SIMMONS**

Born: September, 1886

Died: March 25, 1952

O gentlest Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls, have mercy on the soul of Thy departed servant. Be not severe in Thy judgment but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames, and do Thou O Merciful Saviour, send Thy Angels to conduct Thy departed servant to a place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Merciful Jesus grant eternal rest.

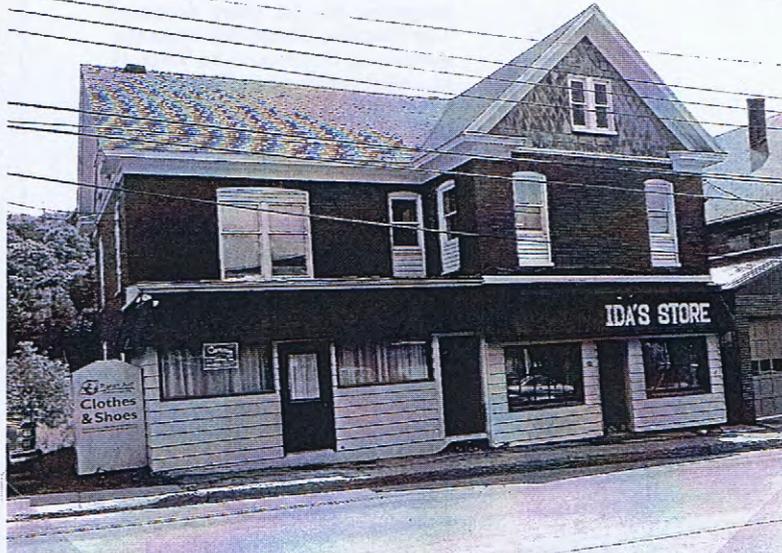
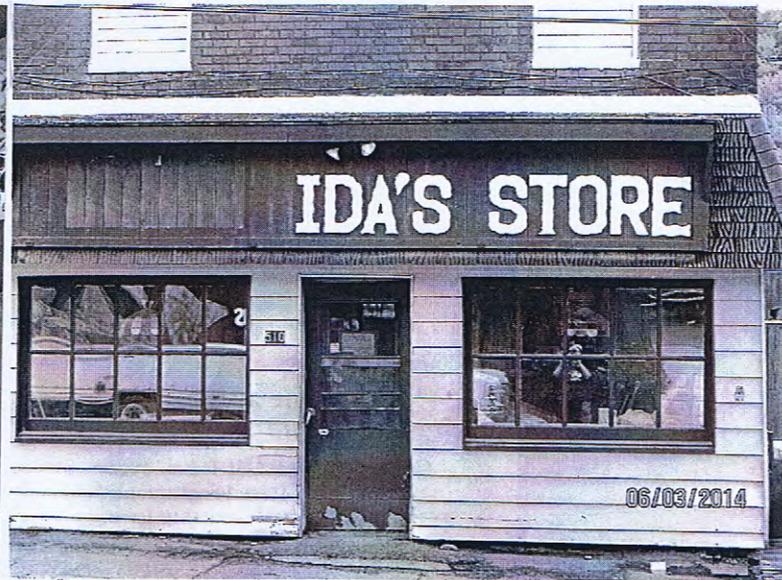
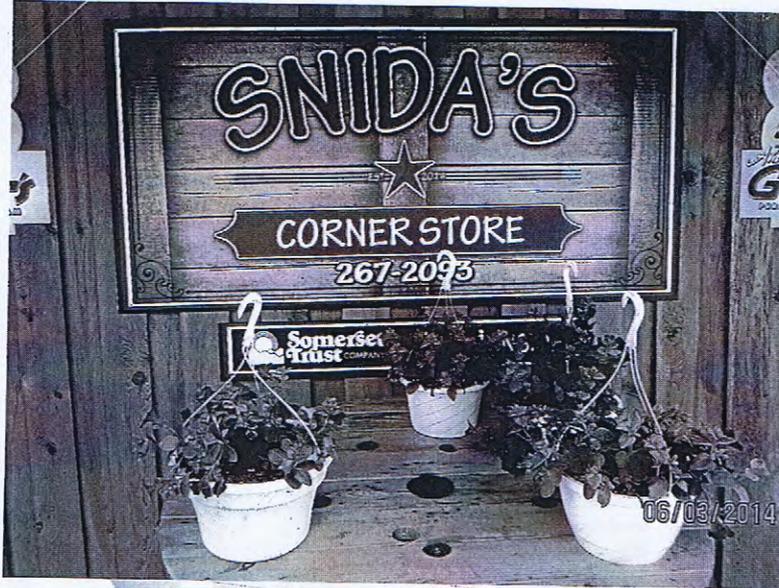
(100 Days for each aspiration)

JOHNSON & SON  
FUNERAL HOME  
BERLIN, PA.

**S**t. Gregory Catholic Church in Macdonaldton lost two of their faithful members within 19 days apart in the spring of 1952 as the above two memorial cards show. The cards were donated to the Berlin Area Historical Society in late May with a variety of miscellaneous items by **Barbara (Swope) Miller**, one of our faithful volunteers. Both women were wives of immigrant miners, who settled in the earlier years of Macdonaldton's history in the community. Both homemakers rest in the St. Gregory Cemetery.

**Susan (Fedor) Stapinsky**, 71, was the widow of Stasko "Stanley" Stapinsky. Her son and daughters-in-law included the late John J. and Stella (Slifco) Stapinsky, who resided beside John A. and Mary (Gondek) Good near St. Gregory Church. Their son, John Jr. (BBHS class of 1959) resides in the Cleveland, Ohio area while continuing to own the family home in Macdonadlton.

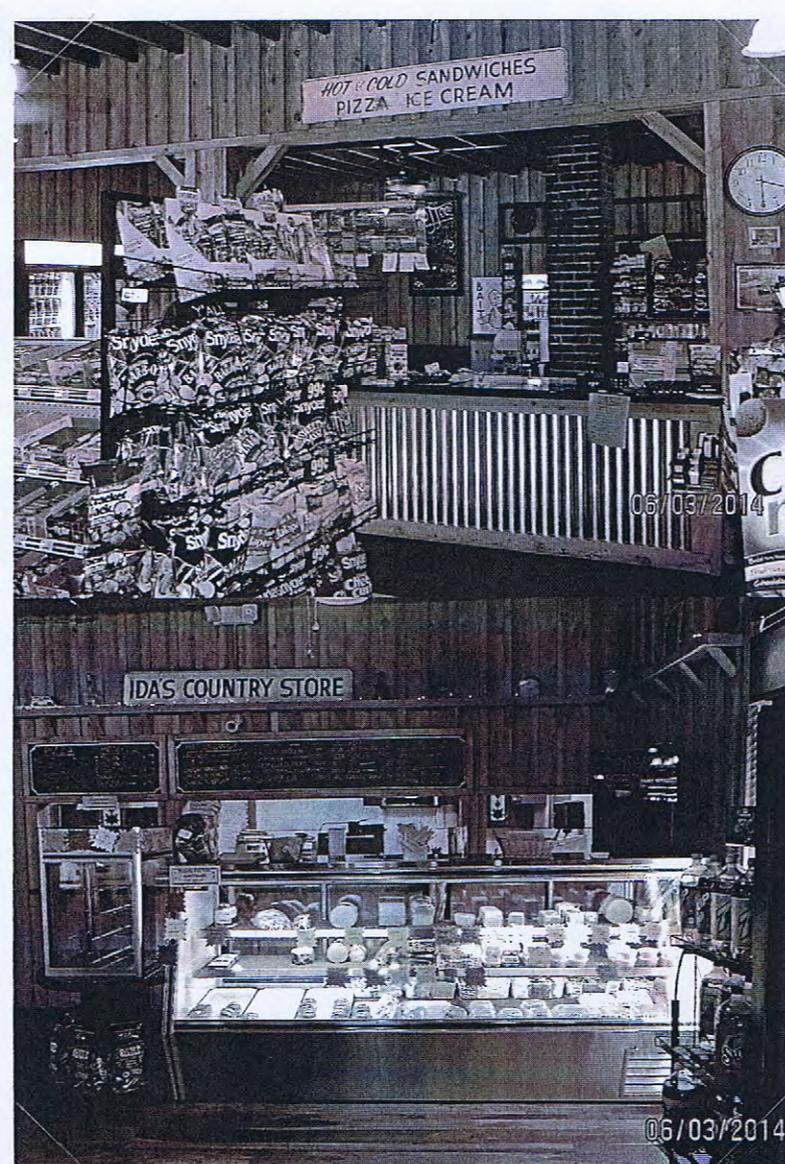
**Susie (Pekar) Good-Simmons**, 65, was married twice. Her first husband was Joseph Gutt (Good) with whom her two children (Mary Patsy and John A. Good) were born. Her grandchildren include Beverly (Patsy) Truscott, William Good, Marian (Good) Ziegler, and Barbara (Good) Pacifico. After the death of her first husband, Susie Good remarried Peter Simmons (an uncle of Paul Simmons and his siblings.) These two Macdonaldton women were friends of Barbara Miller's brother-in-law, the late Mike Tonkovich, who had lived at the Village of Shaft before marrying Elnora Swope and relocating to Berlin.



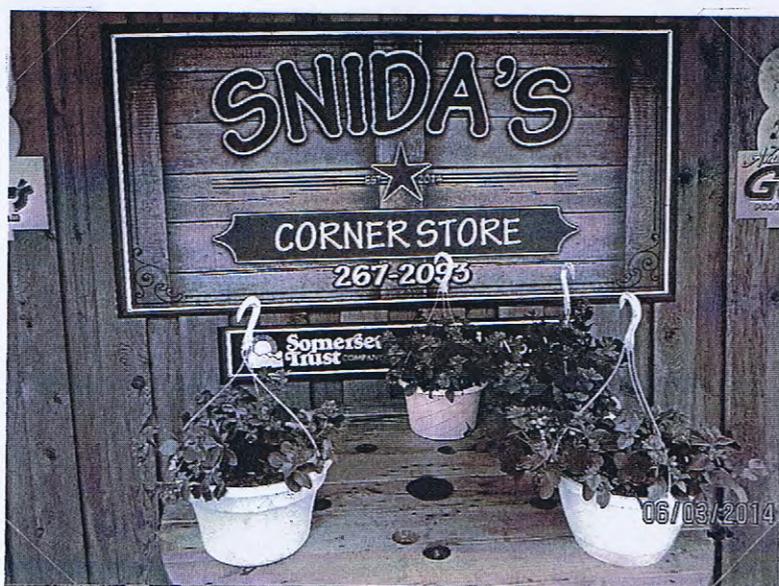
**SNIDA'S CORNER STORE OPENS IN SHANKSVILLE TO REPLACE IDA'S COUNTRY STORE!**



**IN THE HEART OF SHANKSVILLE 'A FRIENDLY LITTLE TOWN!'**



**THE INTERIOR OF SNIDA'S CORNER STORE**



**GOOD FOOD!  
 FRIENDLY PEOPLE!  
 SMALL TOWN  
 ATMOSPHERE  
 BAKERY, PIZZA,  
 HAND DIPPED  
 ICE CREAM  
 HOT & COLD  
 SANDWICHES**

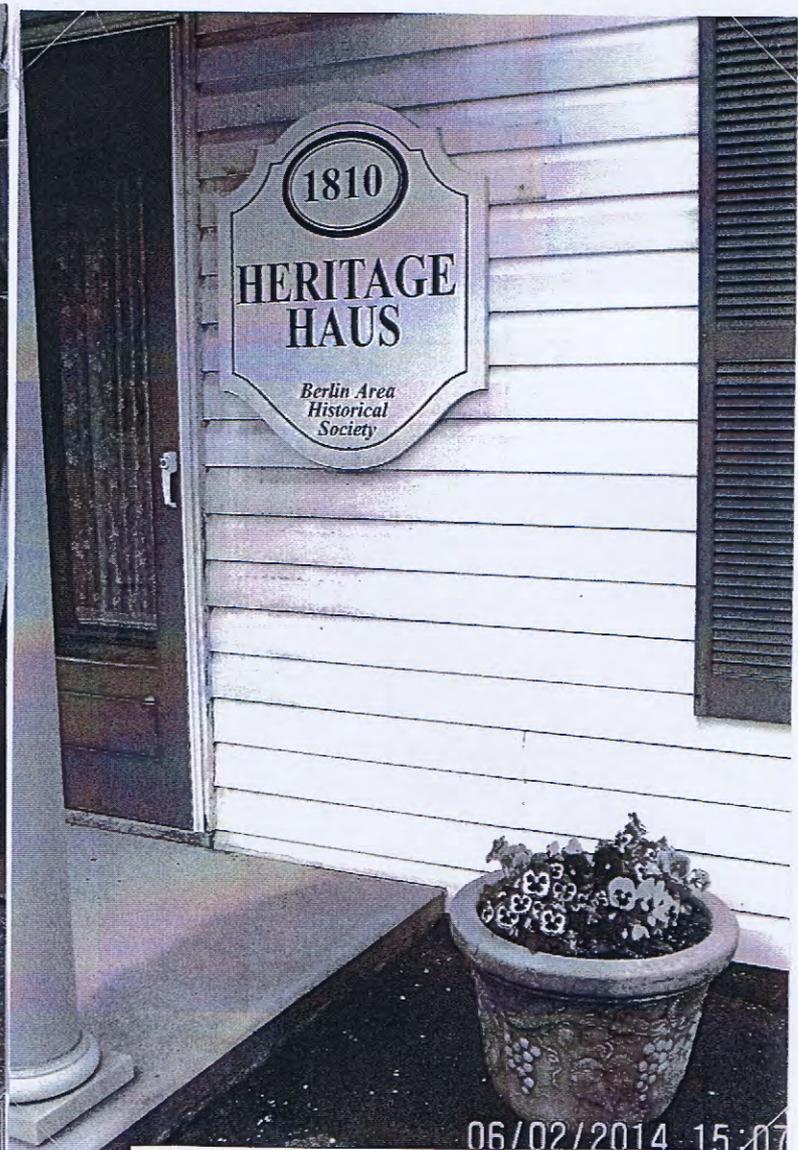
**SNIDA'S CORNER STORE IN THE  
 HEART OF FRIENDLY SHANKSVILLE!**



A VARIETY OF MULTI-COLORED PANSIES BY THE HERITAGE HAUS!



ANNA MAY WEIGHLEY  
CAROL MILLER

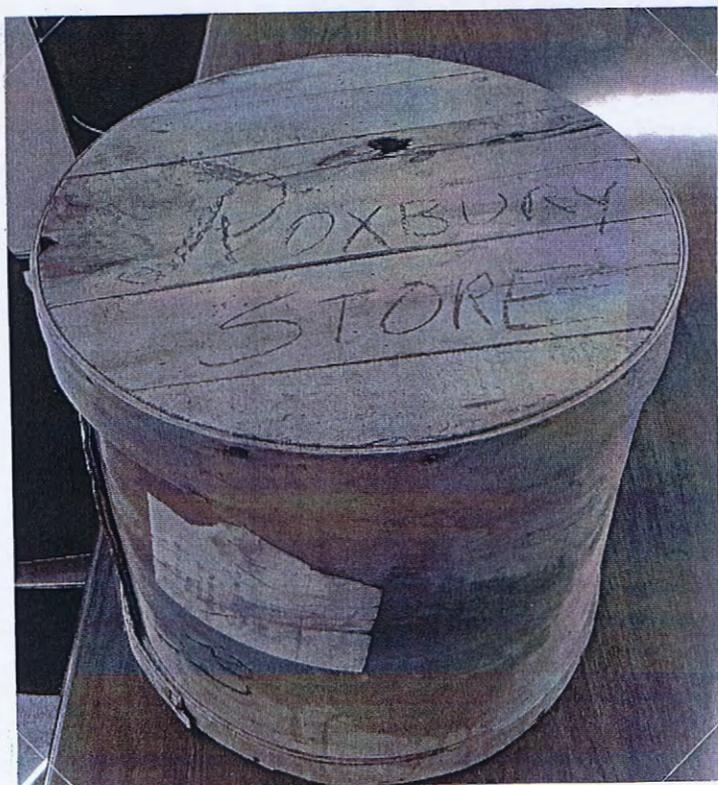


ONE OF TWO PLANTERS IN FRONT  
OF THE HERITAGE HAUS!

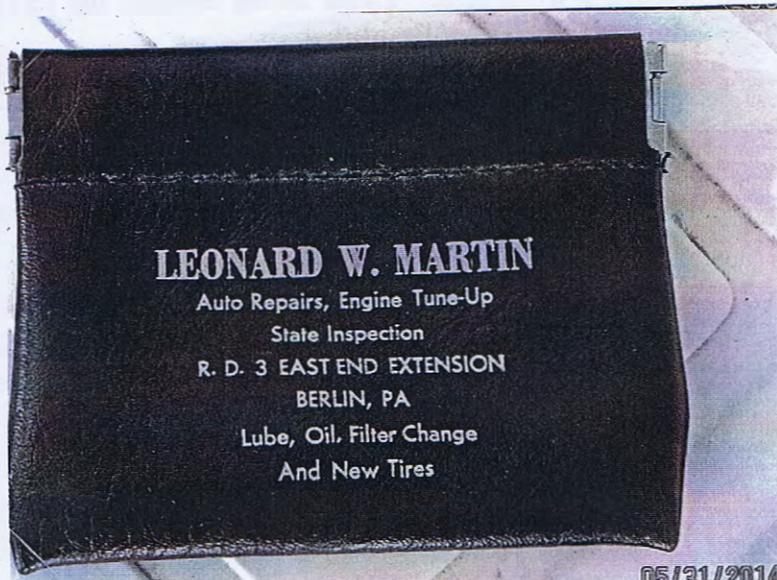


**FOUR STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP NATIVES TOUR OUR MUSEUM!**

On June 4, Ken and Carol Miller brought two special friends, Ronald W. and Helen Ann (Hillegass) Knepper of Andover, Massachusetts to the Berlin Area Historical Society for a tour. All four of them grew up in Stonycreek Township and are graduates of the Shanksville Stonycreek High School. Ron is a son of Hazel (Landis) Knepper and the late Emerson Knepper. Helen Ann is the daughter of the late Nevin S. and Ruth (Walker) Hillegass. The Knepper and Hillegass families were both well-known Stonycreek Township dairy farm families. Including Ken and Carol (Engle) Miller's families, many special local families were represented. Ron and Helen, members of BAHS, were married 50 years ago at Trinity United Church of Christ in Roxbury.



**ROXBURY STORE CHEESE BOX - DONATED BY RANDY AND TODD WARE AND SISTER SUSAN BRYAN**



**LEONARD MARTIN POUCH  
DONATED BY BARBARA AND BOB MILLER.**



### THE SHANKSVILLE AUTO COMPANY – 1940'S

**David R. Hay** has donated the above picture of the Shanksville Auto Company, which he purchased in late May at the Martha "Marty" Coleman's Estate Auction in Somerset. **Bob Bauermaster** loaned us a collection of older photos to copy. **Randy Ware, Todd Ware, and their sister Susan Bryan** donated 10 Chicahonian yearbooks and a wooden cheese box from the former Roxbury Store. **Emanuel Fisher** donated historical newspapers. **Jeanne (Keidel) Williams** donated four stove irons and a Sport Scope from the election days of Eisenhower-Nixon. **Anna May Weighley** donated older obituaries.

**Paul J. Coleman** donated \$200.00 to our endowment fund in memory of his parents, John W. and Mary (Esken) Coleman. **Megan Brown** of Berlin Brothersvalley High School and **Jonathan Reese** of Shanksville Stonycreek High School received BAHS's annual history awards. There were 25 Amish children who toured the Glade School in May and 55 students from Berlin's second grade also enjoyed a tour. **Carol Leydig** donated cookbooks and booklets – The Spirit of Friendship and Nature's Remedies. **Lynn Brant** donated the 1935 BBHS diploma and senior picture of his father, the late Charles M. Brant, Jr.

In addition to the items mentioned on the first three pages of this report, **Jean Walker** of Johnstown also donated Walker, Hoffman, and Hentz family genealogy, a 1937 Berlin Centennial booklet, her father, Frank E. Walker's 1917 diploma from Berlin High School and his 1914 common school diploma from the one-room Walker School (south of Berlin) and several photos of pupils at the Walker School.

**Barbara Miller** donated the coin pouch from Leonard W. Martin's former East End Extension, Berlin, garage, a pen with Lishia's Hotel advertising, a Visitor's Passport from UAL Flight 93 at Shanksville, older newspapers, and miscellaneous items.

The planters in front of our Heritage Haus and the flowers in the back yard have added a touch of spring beauty thanks to **Carol and Ken Miller**. A thank-you to **Russ Hillegas** for installing the new lighting in the genealogy-office building.

**Want List:** Pictures of spring plowing and planting with horses, tractors, and identified drivers. A special thank-you to all our volunteers for all you do to keep the office running smoothly!

**David R. Hay, Curator**