

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 14, 2017



**FORMER HOME OF HARRY P. AND MYRTLE
COLEMAN – BUILT IN 1863**

DESTROYED BY FIRE IN JANUARY 1989

BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP!

1902 STONYCREEK TOWNSHIP DEED PRESENTED BY THE OSCAR MILLER DESCENDANTS!



Seated (l to r): David E. Sumney, Sr. and Robert Schmucker. Second row (l to r): Larry Shober, Donald Miller, David E. Sumney, Jr., Robert Devore, and Leanne (Shober) Calvert

On October 11, 2017 descendants and relatives of the late Oscar T. and Lydia (Engle) Miller, formerly of Stonycreek Township, converged upon the Berlin Area Historical Society to present the February 20, 1902 deed to their family's former 145-acre farm near Roxbury to the society. The acreage included the four acres and historical 1830 farmhouse that is currently the residence of Robert and Donna Schmucker.

The presentation was made by the family of Oscar T. Miller, a former owner of the farm. On February 20, 1902, Urias L. and Eva Nora Glessner sold the same property to Irvin E. Miller. According to the 1902 deed, this parcel was part of a larger tract that Jacob J. and Dinah Glessner conveyed in 1885 to Urias L. Glessner.

Irvin E. and Ellen N. (Glessner) Miller were the parents of Oscar T. Miller. Oscar and his first wife, the former Lydia Engle, followed his parents as owners of the family farm and later their son and daughter-in-law Dalton Earl and Helen (Custer) Miller received ownership of the farm. They were parents of a large family of children, including Donald Miller of the Lambertsville area who was present at BAHS for the presentation. Also present were Leanne (Shober) Calvert and her brother, Larry Shober. Their mother, Margaret (Engle) Shober was a sister of Lydia (Engle) Miller, the first wife of Oscar Miller. The children of Oscar and Lydia

Miller included Anna Marie Devore, mother of Bob Devore of Eightfour, who was in attendance; Dalton Earl Miller, whose son, Donald of the Lambertsville area attended; Margaret, wife of C. Jay Walker, Mary Ellen Miller, and Pauline who was the wife of David E. Sumney, Sr. and mother of David E. Sumney, Jr., both who were in attendance. In more recent years the 1902 deed was stored in the Sumney home in Bentleyville. After talking with family and cousins, the decision was made to donate the deed to the Berlin Area Historical Society.

Bob Schmucker believes that the original four rooms of his home (two on the first floor and two on the second floor) were originally a meeting house believed to have been built in 1830. Eventually additional rooms were added on to the farm house.

DONALD AND DARLENE MILLER PRESENTED MILLER WEDDING CERTIFICATE



DONALD & DARLENE MILLER

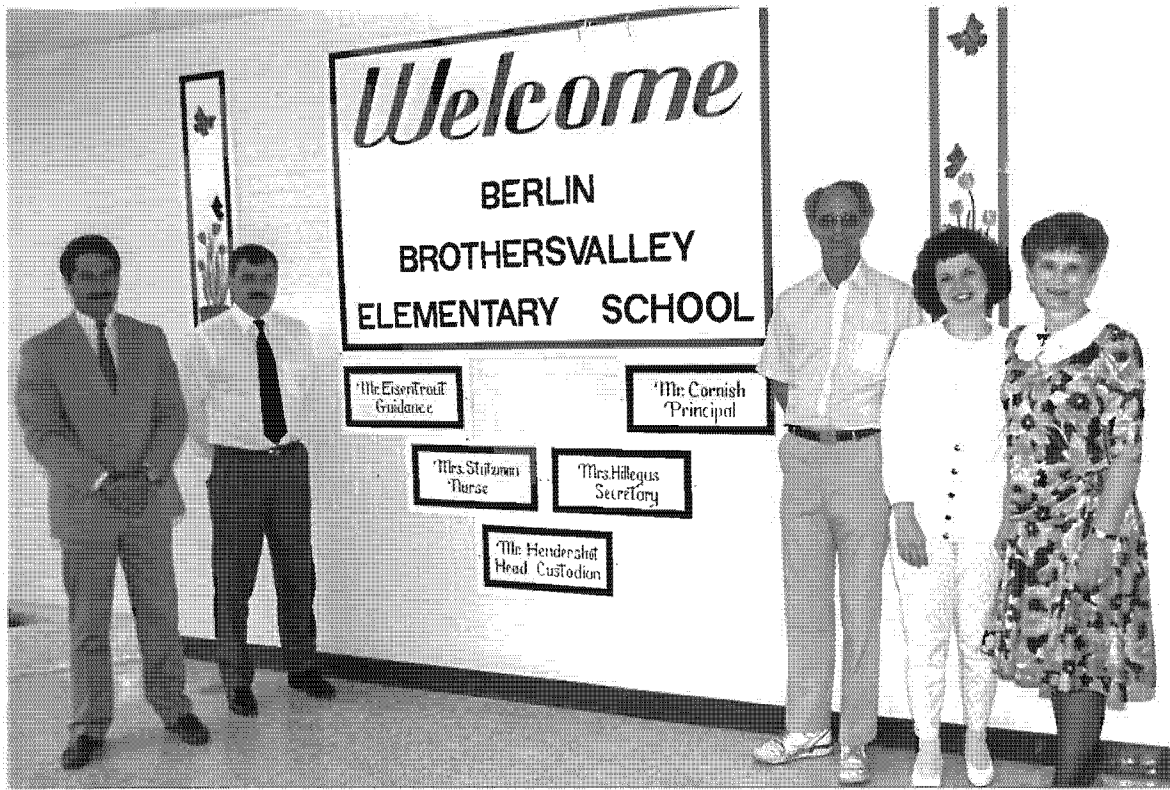
Donald Miller, a son of the late Dalton Earl and Helen (Custer) Miller, and his wife, the former Darlene Miller of the Lambertsville area, on October 11, 2017 also presented the Berlin Area Historical Society with the wedding certificate of Donald's great grandparents, Irvin E. and Ellen N. (Glessner) Miller.

According to the certificate, Irvin E. Miller and Ellen N. Glessner were married on September 23, 1886 in the Berlin parsonage of the Zion Reformed Church by Pastor J. S. Wagner.

PASTOR RALPH LANDIS' PASTORAL RECORD BOOK DONATED!

Several of Pastor Ralph G. Landis, Jr.'s personal books have been donated to our society. One of them was his personal pastoral record book that he kept throughout his many years in the ministry. Pastor Ralph passed away on October 5, 2017 at the age of 94 years.

WELCOME BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Left to right: John Cornish, Principal; Barney Eisentrout, Guidance Counselor; John Hendershot, Head Custodian; Debbie Stutzman, Nurse; and Hazel Hillegas, Secretary. Taken in 1991. Nina McQuade painted the sign.

The above picture taken in 1991 and the 40th year class reunion picture for Shanksville Stonycreek Class of 1943 were donated by Hazel Hillegas.

BAHS'S 2018 PICTORIAL CALENDARS AVAILABLE

We have extra copies of our 2018 pictorial calendar of the Berlin Area Historical Society available for sale at \$3.00 a copy. If you would like them mailed, please add an additional \$2.00 a copy to cover the cost of the mailing. The calendars were given to each person attending the September annual dinner meeting of the Berlin Area Historical Society.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

On October 21 John Holland from England and his wife, Heidi from Berlin, Germany toured the genealogy building and the Heritage Haus. They took many photos and were very impressed.

DEAN HILLEGASS DONATES POTATO GRADER!



BOARD MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER GARY ESTNICK EVALUATES POTATO GRADER FROM THE DEAN HILLEGASS FARM!

Larry R. Pritts, his son, Larry Pritts, and Richard L. Berkley transported the potato grader from the Dividing Ridge area to the Berlin Area Historical society. The potato grader was donated by **Dean E. Hillegass and family**.

OTHER DONATIONS:

Rodney Barkley donated a post card of the Adison M. E. Church that was originally sent to Ernest Suder in 1924 while he was residing with his Uncle and Aunt William H. and Alice Dickey in Brothersvalley Township. After Ernest's father, John M. Suder married his second wife, Ida (Werner) Bittner, Ernest went to live with them and his step brother, Donald Bittner along the Cumberland Highway, south of Berlin.

Jeff "Clevi" Grove donated an old collection plate and a medicine bottle. Kathy Robison donated old-fashioned maple tree spiles. **Carolyn (LaBute) Payne** donated a 1950 Bervalon yearbook.

JEAN WALKER DONATES BLUE CROCHET CHILD'S DRESS!

Jean Louise Walker of Johnstown, a member of the Berlin Area Historical Society, traveled to Berlin in October to present the blue crochet child's dress that she is holding.



JEAN LOUISE WALKER

The dress was made for Jean in 1936 by her Aunt Florence Walker

(Bingner), a long-time teacher in the Berlin Elementary School. The dress was a gift to Jean as a youngster after many Johnstown families were rebounding from the 1936 flood.

While visiting, Jean reminisced about visits to her paternal grandparent's farm in Brothersvalley Township. They were George and Mary (Hoffman) Walker, who resided on the farm now owned and occupied by James Flamm. Jean is the daughter of the late Frank E. and Velma (Livingston) Walker, who lived in Johnstown, where Jean was raised as their only child.

BERLIN'S LAST MAN'S CLUB PRESENTED THEIR PHOTO ALBUM!

The Berlin Last Man's Club has presented their photo album and various other memorabilia to the Berlin Area Historical Society. The last four surviving club members include Alfred "Boots" Christner, Edward Zorn, S. Richard Hillegas and Charles "Chuck" Robb.

JANE HAY DONATES OLD FAMILY HICKORY ROCKING CHAIR

On October 14, N. Jane (Frazier) Hay of Somerset donated an old family hickory rocking chair to the Berlin Area Historical Society. As a baby and youngster, Jane was frequently rocked on the same chair by her mother, Lillie (Deeter) Frazier. Jane's parents, the late Earl and Lillie Frazier owned and operated the "ma and pa's" country store in the village of Glen Savage.

Prior to the chair coming into the Frazier home, it belonged to Jane's maternal grandparents, Jacob and Mary (Poorbaugh) Deeter, also residents of Allegheny Township.

Jane Hay wrote the following information to accompany the hickory rocking chair when it was presented to the Berlin Area Historical Society: "This hickory rocking chair has been well used. It was in our kitchen in Glen Savage while I was growing up and long before that. I was frequently rocked on it by my mother.

She, Lillie (Deeter) Frazier, was rocked on it when she was little as were her three siblings: Elsie (Deeter) Hartge, Carrie (Deeter) Hoppert, and Wesley Deeter.

Mom was a real rocker. She put many miles on it in our kitchen and the chair was in her room the 10 years she was with me in Philadelphia. It's still in pretty good condition and could go many more miles. Yes, this hickory rocker has been well used!"



JANE (FRAZIER) HAY

KATHY AND KEITH GRIMM TAKING INVENTORY IN THE BASEMENT OF THE OFFICE-GENEALOGY BUILDING!



DONATIONS:

Leanne Calvert brought in reprints of the Nicely Brother's murder of Henry Umberger of Jenner Township in 1889, which includes their trial and eventually hanging at the Somerset County Jail. **Stew Saylor and Bob Platt** continue to update and do research on genealogy pertaining to many families. **Elmer C. Altfather** donated a copy of the 1931 patent that his father, Lewis Frederick Altfather obtained for his potato cutter invention. **Bob and Marue Shultz** donated a framed picture of the Shultz Distillery. The Shultz family owned the distillery before it passed into the ownership of the Frantz family. **R. Don Williams** donated a 1911 Watkins Almanac and **David Hay** a 1923 Watkins Vanilla advertisement. **Paul Ritchey and Bob Schmucker** donated a 1931 Shanksville High School graduation picture. **Donald Landis** helped to identify the persons in the picture.

Kyle Hillegas donated the maple basket that was given as one of our raffle prizes at our annual BAHS dinner meeting in September. **Richard L. Berkley** donated an antique Johnstown-Somerset phone book that dates back to the early 1930s or possibly in the 1920s. **Bob Schmucker and Karl Brick** stripped and restained the front door of the Heritage Haus. **John Long** installed a medal strip down through a section of the carpet in our meeting room to save fraying of the carpet.

SOMERSET MAGAZINE STORY RESEARCH

Reporters **Michelle Ganassi and Eric Kieta** of the Daily American in Somerset visited BAHS to obtain information and pictures for a story they were writing for Somerset Magazine on plane crashes that happened in our area.

Cathy (Sarver) Webreck donated a copy of the 50th annual reunion souvenir booklet of the Class of 1967, who held their reunion at the Somerset Country Club. Cathy also donated the Senior Night (October 13) program for Berlin Brothersvalley Football, Cheerleading and Band students that are members of the Class of 2018.

ENDOWMENT GIFTS IN MEMORY OF RICHARD D. SARVER

Richard D. Sarver, who was married to the late Clara (Altfather) Sarver passed away on September 12, 2017 at the age of 100 years. The following persons have donated \$325.00 to our endowment fund in Richard's memory:

\$50.00 by Linda Mekic; \$25.00 by Barbara West
\$250.00 Lynn (son) and Betsy Sarver,
Jeff (grandson) Sarver and Marci Moody,
and Caleb (great grandson) Sarver

We have requests of persons wishing to purchase copies of these two books: Seifertshausen to Somerset & Stonycreek Reflections.

Linda McClintock donated a beauty shop photo for possible inclusion in a future edition of Memos. **Alan and Laura Brick** donated an assortment of Christmas items. **Jeannie (Keidel) Williams** donated the following books: (1) "Somerset County" The Highlands of Pennsylvania. (2) Berlin 1837-1987 (Sesquicentennial book). (3) 1995 Trinity United Church of Christ pictorial directory. (4) 1989 Trinity United Church of Christ pictorial.

Carol and Ken Miller were assisted by Tammy Rohrs and Debbie Bittner in decorating the Heritage Haus for the Christmas season. The Heritage Haus was open during the weekend (November 11 and 12) during the Pious Springs Women's Club homes tours for persons wishing to have another special place to visit! Thank you to all our volunteers for all of your talents and services! **David R. Hay, Curator**



FRONT (L TO R): RICHARD MILTON WEBRECK, BETTY JEAN (DIVELEY) KREPELKA, CHARLOTTE JANE (GLESSNER) CHONKO, CHARLES EDWARD MAUST AND PAUL SIMMONS. STANDING (L TO R) ROSE ANN (WILL) WEBRECK AND TWIN MARY THERESA WILL, AUDREY IRENE (KEEFER) TWONBLY, AND THOMAS EARL BLUEBAUGH 2017 REUNION CLASS OF 1947 AT THE BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY HIGH SCHOOL.

MOSTOLLER'S RESTAURANT - GEIGER