

CURATOR'S REPORT
THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 11, 2016



**FORMER COUGHENOUR-
SCHELLER HOME OUTSIDE
GLEN SAVAGE**

IN MEMORY OF ANNA MAE WEIGHLEY

NOVEMBER 12, 1930 – AUGUST 9, 2016

T

he Berlin Area Historical Society mourns the passing of 85-year-old Anna Mae (Johnson) Weighley, a dedicated volunteer for more than 15 years, who passed away on August 9, 2016 at Somerset Hospital. Anna Mae joined the board of directors of BAHS in early 2001 and took over the position of Board Secretary in January 2002, succeeding Elmer C. Altfather. Anna Mae continued in the position of secretary until 2015 when she stepped down and welcomed Betty Chaney as our current secretary.

Along with being a homemaker and mother, Anna Mae had been employed throughout her lifetime in the printing business with such firms as the Berlin Publishing Company, The Meyersdale Republican, The Somerset Daily American, and Atlas Printing. She was quite knowledgeable of print shop procedures and brought that knowledge to the Berlin Area Historical Society as a dedicated volunteer. Anna Mae was faithful in volunteering on Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings at BAHS and continually organized the many pictures donated to BAHS into notebooks with indexes as well as into our filing cabinet in the vault. One of her greatest projects through the years was searching for and having copies made of pictures representing each of the graduating classes at Berlin Brothersvalley High School – a monumental project required much time and which she continued to organize into notebooks until her passing.

Through her volunteer years, Anna Mae served as chairperson of the Heritage Haus until recent years when she vacated that position to the care of Carol and Ken Miller. Many times she

Anna Mae Weighley

January 27, 2016



developed stories as well as the feature **Then and Now** as a member of the Memos staff. She enjoyed volunteer service and assisting with various projects around the genealogy room, where she was a great source of information about the Berlin community.

Through the years the various volunteers have enjoyed working with Anna Mae, who kept us informed about news of the community as well as providing information on families that were part of the community for many years. Along with our work load, we enjoyed many fun

Anna Mae brought with her admirable work ethics and an abundance of stories of family life and the many experiences that life provided. She was the widow of Daniel Franklin Weighley, Sr. The couple were parents of Dan, Jr., Don, D. Jack, Sheryl Walker, Patti Chadwick, David, and Tim, all living in the Berlin and Somerset areas. A son, Jaimie, died as an infant. Anna Mae also had 11 grandchildren, two step grandchildren, and 24 great grandchildren.

Anna Mae was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ in Berlin, where she sang in the choir and was involved with the Christmas Cantatas and the Women's Fellowship group. She was a member of the Berlin Fire Company's Auxiliary, the Jolly Quilters, and the Mountaineer Homemakers. Among her collections is a complete set of the Berlin high school yearbooks (Bervalon), which she faithfully added to each year.

As we continue our volunteer services, we look across the room to Anna Mae's empty chair and desk. We often miss her conversations and the enthusiasm she put into the projects that she enjoyed. We remember fun times and the important place she held in our special "family" of volunteers at the Berlin Area Historical Society. Her memories lives on as an admirable role model for those of us who follow in her footsteps as volunteers at BAHS.

experiences with Anna Mae. She graduated from Berlin Brothersvalley High School in 1948 and was devoted to helping to organize her high school reunions every five years and mini-reunions annually. She was born in Berlin on November 12, 1930, one of the five daughters of Robert A. and Nellie (Ross) Johnson. Through the years, she worked on various family genealogies of which copies were donated to BAHS. Anna Mae was honored in recent years by the Berlin Lions Club as one of its outstanding Citizens of the Year for the Berlin area.

THIS OCTOBER 12, 2016 CURATOR'S REPORT IS A **TWO-MONTH ACCOUNT** OF HAPPENINGS FOR THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ANYTHING HAPPENING AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2016 WILL BE INCLUDED IN OUR NOVEMBER 2016 CURATOR'S REPORT!

**Ray Glessner's
Barber Shop
Shanksville, PA
Going Out of
Business**
*Thank you to all of
my customers for your
patronage over the past
50 years.*

This is a **February 20, 2010 advertisement** that appeared in The Daily American

CERTIFICATES DONATED BY WILLIARD "DEE" GLESSNER



Willard "Dee" Glessner of New Braunfels, Texas traveled back to his native home area in the Roxbury area purposely to attend the annual dinner meeting of the Berlin Area

Historical Society. Traveling with him was a pretty young lady, Jade that he introduced as his "adopted" step daughter. Along with attending our ham dinner and program, Dee and Jade also made a visit to the Berlin Area Historical society on September 12. Dee is a 1948 graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School and enjoyed many telephone conversations with classmate, the late Anna Mae Weighley in recent years. Dee's wife, the former Lucille Virginia Martin, died in July 2006.

Dee was interested in showing Jade the Samuel Hoffard clock that originally came out of the home of Dee's parents, Willard Daniel and Mary Mabel (Krissinger) Glessner, who lived on a farm along Stony Creek Road in Brothersvalley Township until 1941. Later they lived in the George Krissinger family home in Roxbury (Dee's grandfather) until relocating to Somerset for retirement years. As Dee walked into the back display room at BAHS, he stopped to admire the photo of Dr. Irving C. Miller. He told the story of Dr. Miller pulling him through a bout with pneumonia when he was a young lad on his parent's farm. The picture that is included with this story shows Dee standing in front of the Hoffard clock that came out of homes owned by his parents and his sister, the late Elinor Nicholson, who lived in Grove City, Ohio, until her death on May 27, 2008 at the age of 92.

Also while visiting the Berlin Area Historical society, Dee, donated five certificates that are described in the following paragraphs.

- (1) The 1909 affirmation of faith certificate for Willard Daniel Glessner (his father) at Trinity Reformed Church at Roxbury.
- (2) The July 27, 1878 confirmation certificate for Mrs. Mary Krissinger at the Reformed Church at Berlin.

Continued on next page

- (3) The March 3, 1878 marriage certificate between George W. Krissinger of Berlin and Mary Ling of Stonycreek Township.
- (4) The December 23, 1913 marriage certificate for Dee's parents, William Daniel Glessner and Mary Mabel Krissinger of Berlin. The marriage was performed by the Rev. D. S. Stephens of Trinity Reformed Church in Berlin
- (5) The April 30, 1910 certificate for completing the courses of public school education in Somerset County presented to Mary Krissinger, Class of 1910 at Berlin.

“MAINTAIN YOUR SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE!”

By Buzz Aldrin, an American icon, who landed on the moon on July 20, 1969 as NASA's Apollo 11 Lunar Module pilot. The next day he became the second man to walk on the moon's surface.

DONATIONS TO BAHS ENDOWMENT FUND:

IN HONOR OF ETHEL MAE (MOGNET) WOELFEL

In honor of Ethel Mae (Mognet) Woelfel's 90th birthday, her son and daughter-in-law, Eric C. and Anne Woelfel, as well as her nieces Pat (Mognet) Howell and Peg (Mognet) Vough have made a donation of \$200.00 to our endowment fund. Ethel Mae is a daughter of the late Peter Paul and Edna (Werner) Mognet of Somerset and was a granddaughter of Josiah C. Werner (the country carpenter of the Pine Hill area). Ethel Mae self-published a book about Josiah's wife entitled, "Lydia, Blacksmith's Daughter" and a loose-leaf book about her grandfather, Peter Paul Mognet.

\$50.00 IN MEMORY OF NEIL MILLER

Placed by Ben & Marjorie Vinzani

\$1,000 DONATED TO ENDOWMENT FUND IN MEMORY OF ANNA MAE WEIGHLEY BY THE FOLLOWING 23 PARTIES:

<p>Lewis & Barbara Berkley Gary & Joann Estnick N. Jane Hay Mary S. Witt David & Virginia Hay Adelene Vieregge Mark & Lori Gindlesperger Dorlin W. Hay Jim & Kay Suder Lester & LaVerne Coslic Jennie Kissinger</p>	<p>Dickey Stellingwerf Berlin Oil Company Jim & Diane Walker Doug & Elena Brant Janet L. Bender W. Scott Wagner Robert, Roberta & Deborah Coughenour Jolly Quilters Reon & Sheron Engleka Terry & Vicki Wagner Eleanor Darr</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Nancy Hunter</p>	

**JOHN HAIGH, FORMER CHIEF STEWARD ON AIR FORCE ONE,
SERVED AS GUEST SPEAKER AT BAHS' ANNUAL DINNER MEETING.
HE IS PICTURED WITH BAHS PRESIDENT JIM SUDER**



DONATIONS AND SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

The Society paid for 267 dinners for the annual banquet – one of the biggest banquets that we have enjoyed! The winners of the society's raffle were **Sarah Fogle**, who won the quilt and **Sherry Berkey**, who won the braided rug. **Jean Ogburn** donated books for the Glade one-room school house. **Butch Leazier** donated old newspapers and an old bottle of Mercurochrome. **Marcia Maust** donated Whiskey Rebellion items. **Forbes Road Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution** donated a copy of their 100th Anniversary souvenir program booklet.

Ann Anderson and Bob Hixson donated furniture that belonged to the late Anna Poorbaugh. It consisted of a bed and a dresser as well as a coverlet and a collection of family photos. The **Jean Shaffer Estate** donated Valley Grange history and the organization's official seal. **Ira "Bunk" Harding** donated a Snyder's Potato Chip box from the 1950s or 1960s. **Berlin Veteran's Home** donated a new American flag to fly outside our genealogy building. **Robert Platt** donated a ream of extra-large copy paper for making charts.

A History of Boys' Basketball in Somerset County and its supplement (1985-1991) – both compiled by the late Coach William R. Lamp of Rockwood – were donated by **Linda McClintock**. **Bob Platt** was able to find an online obituary for **Dale Eugene Wilson, Jr.** (1948-2016), of Akron, Ohio, who was a member of the graduating class of 1966 at Berlin Brothersvalley High School. He died September 18, 2016 in Akron, Ohio.

**SCENES FROM BERLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL
DINNER MEETING!**



**DONALD AND EDNA (MILLER) DEIST WITH DAUGHTER AUDREY SECHLER AND
SPEAKER JOHN HAIGH (SPEAKER). DON AND EDNA CELEBRATED 70 YEARS
OF MARRIAGE THIS YEAR!**



**RAY AND LORI (GUMBERT) CARVER. WHO IS THE LADY BETWEEN THEM?
LORI COMPILES THE RECIPES & HINTS FROM THE PAST FOR THE MEMOS!**

A HEARTY WELCOME TO JOYCE (BENDER) MEESE



JOYCE (BENDER) MEESE, wife of David L. Meese (Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance) of Brothersvalley Township, joined BAHS's group of volunteers this September. She retired as a Special Education teacher from the Rockwood Area School System in September 2015. Joyce is a 1971 graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School and is a daughter of Janet (Wilhelm) Bender of Berlin and the late John R. Bender.

She and Dave are the parents of three children: Greta Durst, Ben, and Ella, all graduates of the Berlin Brothersvalley High School.

BARRY BENNETT DONATES TRESSLER GENEALOGY!



BARRY BENNETT of Somerset, an employee of the DeVilbiss Company in Somerset, donated a copy of his genealogy, "Tressler's of Somerset County, Pennsylvania (1745-2016)" to the Berlin Area Historical Society. Barry made a personal visit to BAHS on September 28, 2016 to make the presentation. The Springs' native has been working on the Tressler Genealogy for more than 30 years.

Your Curator brushed shoulders with Barry many times in the past while Barry was in the pursuit of Tressler genealogy.

VOLUNTEERS ENJOYING A LITTLE "FUN" AFTER COMPLETING MAILINGS!



A PARADE TAKING THE INVITATION LETTERS FOR OUR ANNUAL BANQUET TO BERLIN POST OFFICE

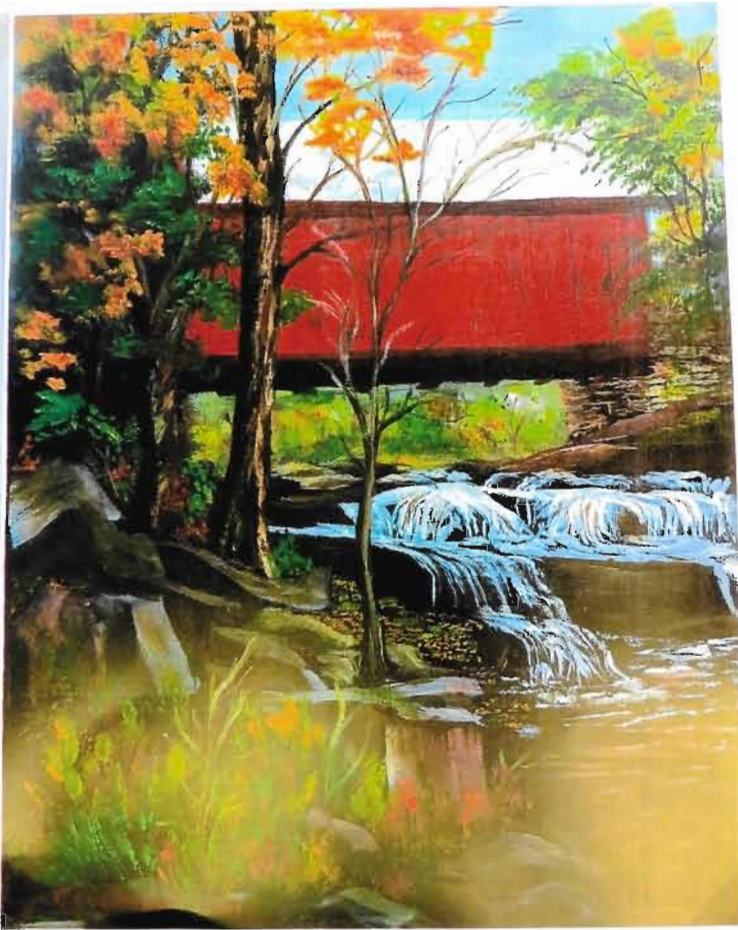
L to r: David Hay, Robert Platt, Keith & Kathy Grimm & Richard Berkley



HAULING FALL MEMOS TO BERLIN POST OFFICE!

L TO R: Keith & Kathy Grimm, Richard Berkley, David Hay and Gary Estnick

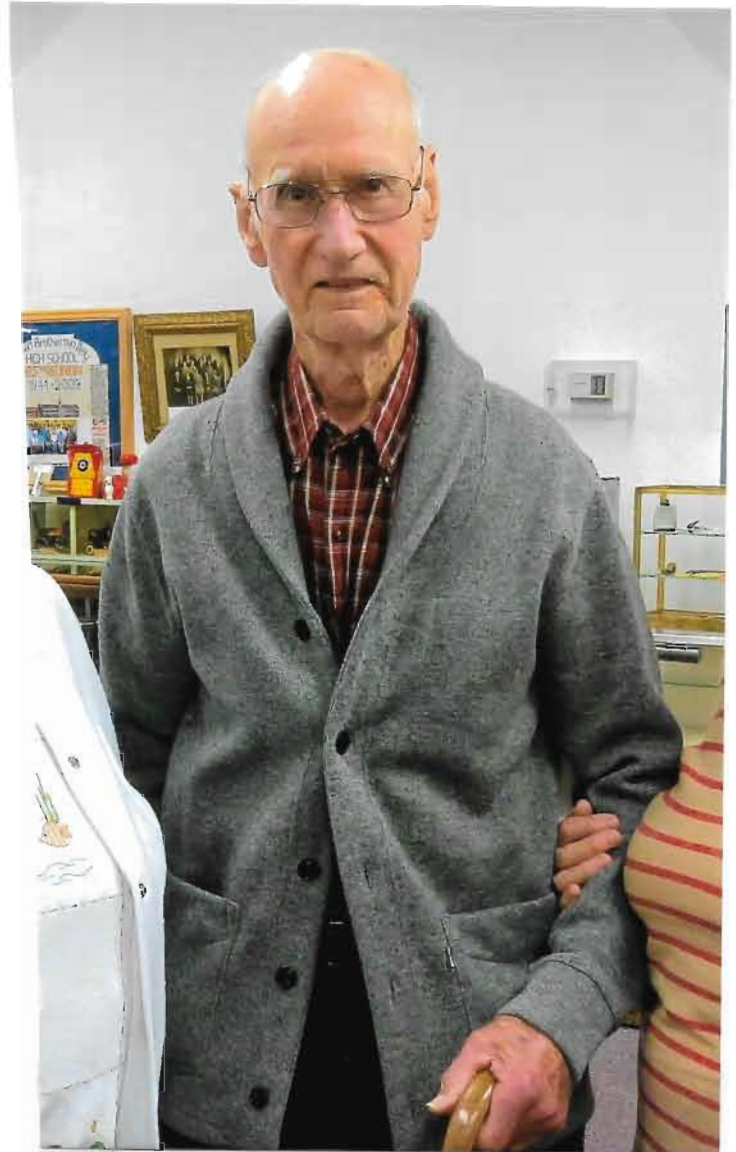
OIL PAINTING OF THE 'DOC MILLER' OR 'PACKSALLE' COVERED BRIDGE



MIRIAM (SCHROCK) COUGHENOUR has donated several copies of her painting of the Packsaddle or Doc Miller covered bridge (shown above) as well as an original oil painting of the arched Casselman Bridge in Grantsville, MD. Also included with items that Miriam donated are an advertising button for Johnson's Furniture Store from years ago, an autograph book made and signed while Miriam

was in high school in Berlin, and various miscellaneous items.

PASTOR RAY GNAGEY VISITS BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY!



The Rev. Ray Gnagey, a retired minister in the United Methodist Church, visited BAHS on Sept. 28 with his wife, Marie (Lepley) Gnagey and his sister-in-law, Mary (Lepley) Wahl. Pastor Gnagey is 98 and one-half years old.

PLANK BOTTOM ROCKING CHAIR AND FRAMED PICTURE OF FERNE (HENTZ) HAY DONATED BY FERNE HAY ESTATE!

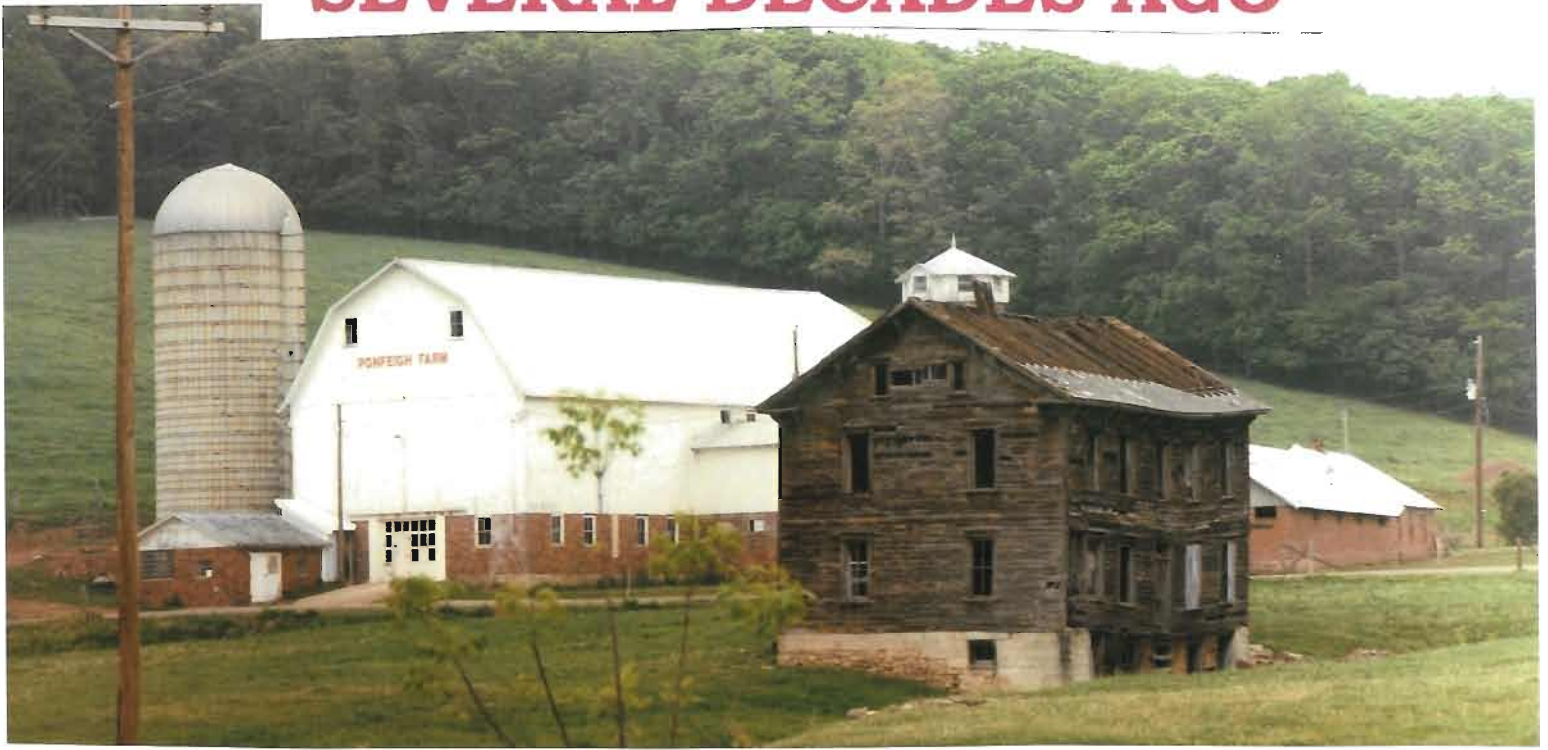


THIS CHILDHOOD PICTURE OF FERNE GRACE (HENTZ) HAY AND ROCKING CHAIR THAT BELONGED TO HER PARENTS JOHN H. AND MARY GRACE (BRANT) HENTZ WERE DONATED BY THE ESTATE OF FERNE (HENTZ) HAY, WHO WAS THE WIDOW OF JENNINGS B. HAY.

OTHER DONATIONS:

Mrs. Rick (Susan Miller) Chaney donated a Modern Dairy coffee mug from the estate of Carl and Virginia (Baer) Platt. **John Haigh, Sr.**, speaker at BAHS's annual dinner meeting, donated his book, "Air Force One" and a picture of the Air Force One flying over Mt. Rushmore. **Berlin Brothersvalley High School** donated a 2016 Bervalon ,

SEVERAL DECADES AGO



PONFEIGH FARM – NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

1930 BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL BANNER



DONATED BY TOM CUSTER THROUGH A VISIT BY HIS
BROTHER AND SISTER-IN-LAW DON AND NANCY CUSTER