

# **CURATOR'S REPORT**

## **THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**OCTOBER 14, 2025**

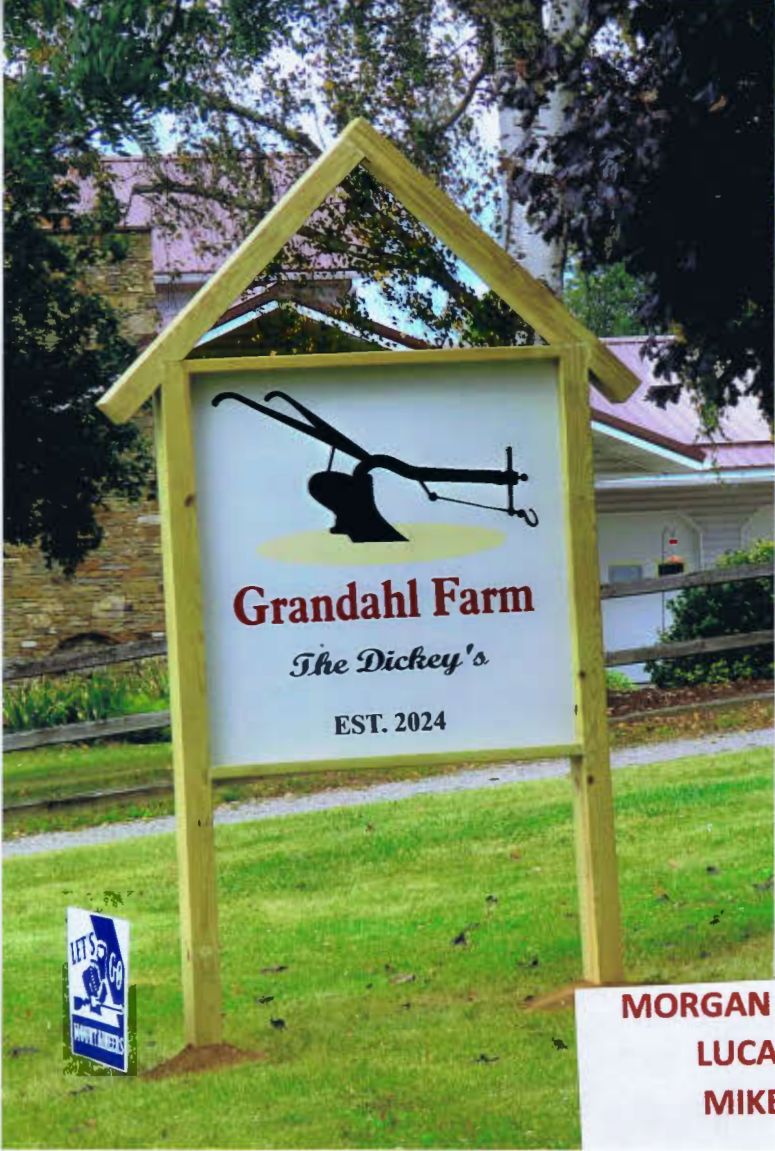


**DAVID & PATRICIA PAUL'S HOME**

**"CLOVER HILL FARMS"**

**BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP**





MORGAN GRANDAHL DICKEY  
LUCAS LEISTER AND  
MIKE BUTTERFIELD

BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP



BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP

SIGNS OF OUR  
TIME - A WAY  
TO SPRUCE UP  
THE COUNTRYSIDES!





## **THE 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY COMMUNITY FAIR – SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2025**

Another great time for the community with many people involved. The President was Brad Flick; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Tim Rhoads; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Brandon Rhoads; Secretary – Karen Hittie; Assistant Secretary – Becky Horner; Treasurer – Mary Margaret Werner; and Assistant Treasurer – Emaline Diehl. There were many other dedicated volunteers to make the fair another successful venture.

Three large pumpkins greeted visitors at the door. From the doorway into the gym were: First Place (405 pounds) – Riley Pyle; Second (260 pounds) – McLemma Pyle; and Third (238 pounds) – Matthew Pyle.





**BERLIN BRETHREN CHURCH'S  
NEW ADDITION UNDERWAY.  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025  
DARR CONSTRUCTION!**





## **ANITA HANKINSON PRESENTED AN INFORMATIVE PROGRAM ON PRESERVING PHOTOS AND ESTABLISHING HOW TO STORE THEM ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025**

Anita is a former representative for **CREATIVE MEMORIES** and has useful tips for Scrapbooking and for preserving and storing photos. She preserves the many photos that are donated to Berlin Area Historical Society. Stop in and see the beautiful notebooks she has completed for our library. She has completed many copies of her family genealogy to share with her children and cousins.

Anita donated a package of plastic sheet protectors which are often used at the society to protect documents, pictures, and other items. The society is always interested in donations of pictures that are identified. We have some wonderful photos that were never identified and would be wonderful additions to our collection **if we knew the names of the people in the pictures!**

## **THE CLOSING OF THE BERLIN INSURANCE OFFICE OF WALTON, SUDER AND DOTT**

On September 15, 2025 when this community happening was written, the Berlin Insurance Office of **WALTON, SUDER AND DOTT** was scheduled to close permanently by early-mid October 2025. All calls were to be handled by the Johnstown office along with Cynthia. Jim Suder started the agency during the Highland Mutual days and was then joined by his son, Dan Suder. Betty Chaney worked at this office for 17 years and retired from the insurance field on April 1, 2025. We are saddened to learn that this community business is leaving Berlin.



# ROBERT FRANCIS ANSELL, JR.

## NEW BOARD MEMBER OF THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

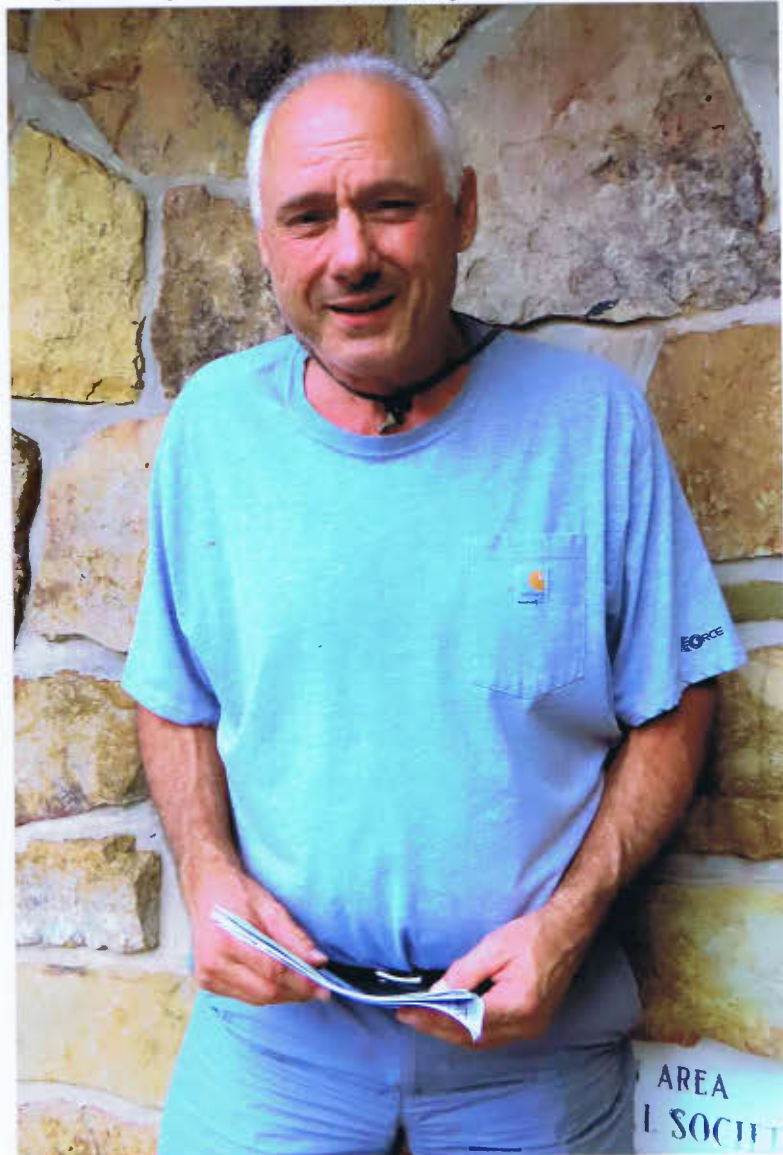
We would like to welcome Robert “Bob” Ansell our newest Berlin representative to the board of directors of the Berlin Area Historical Society. After living in LaPlata, Maryland for 30 years, Bob became a permanent resident of Berlin to enjoy his retirement years in September 2023. Since then he has lost little time in becoming a member of the Berlin Area Historical Society, Berlin’s Lions Club, the J. B. Schrock Playground Committee, and the Somerset County Rails to Trail Committee. He shared his interesting growing up years, schooling, early working experiences and his long teaching career during an interview with David Hay on September 17, 2025 to introduce himself for the October Curator’s Report.

Looking for a place in southwestern Pennsylvania to get away from the hot, humid temperatures of LaPlata, he found his way to Somerset. His grandparents were from the Uniontown and Masontown areas where he has fond memories of spending time in his youth.

Not satisfied with settling in Somerset, he found Berlin by chance while he and his son traveled through the community on their way to look at Meyersdale properties. He found his current Berlin home in a community that impressed him for its tidy and well-kept homes. After looking at the property, he liked it and quickly decided to purchase the home in October 1922. However he couldn’t move permanently until after his LaPlata home sold. For almost a year he traveled back and forth between the two properties before moving permanently to Berlin. He likes the quieter pace of Berlin in comparison to LaPlata, likening it to the Masontown and Uniontown areas that left a lasting impression on his younger years. Although he and his wife, the former Elesa Conner, planned to find a slower paced community for retirement, his wife, a former high school and middle school English teacher, passed away on July 4, 2022.

Bob and his wife are parents of three children: Emma and Hannah, both whom currently live in Berlin and son, Rob living in LaPlata where his late father and stepmother as well as siblings were living when Bob bought his Berlin home. In his

retirement, Bob enjoys playing chess, reading and gardening as well as community involvement. In



**ROBERT F. ANSWELL, JR.**



younger years, he was active in beach volleyball and basketball.

After living as a youngster in Capital Heights, Maryland, near Washington D.C., he followed his family during fourth grade in relocating to Waldorf, Maryland. Bob graduated in 1977 from Thomas Stone High School in Waldorf, Bob shared that during his middle schooling, high school, and early working career, he worked on a farm, in a restaurant and for an electrical supply company. For the latter job, he traveled to jobs sites delivering electrical and other supplies for housing projects. Bob sensed that older employees weren't always happy with their jobs but continued their employment in order to support their families. That encouraged Bob to look for a different profession which resulted in his decision to seek the teaching profession. He talked about experiencing early computer programming and substitute teaching to see if teaching would qualify as a possible field to follow.

After being away from school a number of years, Bob decided he was ready to pursue a future in education. He received his B.S. degree at Bowie State University and his Master's Degree at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. By 1990 he was teaching special education in Charles County, Maryland. For 20 years he taught second, third, and fourth grade elementary school which was followed by nine years as a science teacher. His last 12 years were spent in elementary and middle schools as a truant officer and social worker, being an advocate for homeless and student-families in Charles County, Maryland.

Bob Ansell fills the unexpired term of John F. Long, who was serving on the Board of Directors of the Berlin Area Historical Society at the time of his passing.

We look forward to Bob serving on the board of director and sharing new ideas and suggestions as we move forward to the exciting future of our historical society.

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## DONATIONS:

**Russ Hillegas** donated a Berlin Sesquicentennial Book (1832-1987); three volumes of the Bedford and Somerset County history; and a suitcase containing two WW II uniforms (unknown ownership) from the home of his in-laws, Edison and the late Doris Paul. **Russel Love** donated two more new maps of the White Horse area. **Steve and Tammy Rohrs, Ken Miller, and Bob Ansell** placed rail fencing around portions of the Humble House. The rail fencing was split at Mountain Craft Days. **Karen Glessner** donated a collection of Glencoe photos from the collection of her late mother, Marjorie Hay. Karen also donated a poem tribute written by Mary Hartman in honor of the Rev. J. Earl Dobbs and a will of 1874 for Jacob Ernst.

**Anita Hankinson** donated 100 plastic sleeves after her workshop on preserving photos and storage of photos. **Peter Saxman** donated an 1884 Bedford-Somerset history. **Security One** workers installed security cameras in the basement of our historical society headquarters and at the Glade one-room school house. **Reon Engleka** donated a set of hames. **Joni Walker Hufford** donated clothing items worn by one of her great grandparents.

**Randy Ware** donated three gospel records by the Raley family. **The Carver relatives** donated Ira G. Carver's 1875 Lutheran book of worship. **Tammy Rohrs and Cheryl Hay** completed some painting. **Nancy Griffith** donated newspaper stories on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and the Allegheny Tunnel. **Connie Slope** donated pictures and a newspaper story featuring Macdonaldton.

**Terry Rhodes** donated local business cards, a Fels-Naptha bar of soap, water proof wax vestas (matches) and miscellaneous items. **Paul and Rebecca (Brown) McCusker** donated a framed picture and Korean War Metals of her father, the late Donald Brown., (See picture in this Curator's Report.)

Thank you to our volunteers for your services.

David R. Hay, Curator





## **THE RAIL FENCING AT THE HUMBLE HOUSE!**

On September 8, 2025 the new log fencing was erected around the Humble Log House at the Berlin Area Histocial Society by a crew that consisted of Steve and Tammy Rohrs, Ken Miller, and Robert Ansell. The rail fence was made at the Mountain Craft Days the weekend before and hauled to Berlin by the Rohr family.

The log fencing was a goal for the late John F. Long, who was one of the key figures in the erection of the Humble House in memory of Terry Saylor. Money from John Long's memorial covered the cost of the log fencing.

## **THE PASSING OF A BINGMAN'S MEAT PACKING EMPLOYEEE:**

### **SANDY LYNN GINDLESPERGER**

**BORN: SEPTEMBER 6, 1967**

**DIED: THE SUMMER OF 2025    AGED 57 YEARS**

**SANDY WAS A 1985 GRADUATE OF BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY HIGH SCHOOL. SHE WAS A DAUGHTER OF CHARLES WESLEY AND SHIRLEY LAVERNE (FIKE) GINDLESPERGER.**