

**CURATOR'S REPORT**  
**THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**



**EARL & GLORIA (HILLEGASS)**  
**WRIGHT'S HOME**

**BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP**

# SWISH WENT THE COW'S TAIL

BY DAVID R. HAY

Growing up on the farm provided many memories – some cherished and others that one would prefer to forget. On a dairy farm you always had the feeding and milking to do mornings and evenings before your social life could begin.

I remember many evenings when social events were on the agenda. Before the milking, I sometimes “cleaned up” before going to the barn to perform the routine chores and the milking - especially when my ride was expected at the end of the farm lane at an earlier hour. Thinking that I could get ready quickly after the last cow was milked, I washed my hair and face to get ahead with my preparations.

Wouldn't you know it that often in the summer the gutters

behind the cows didn't need cleaned for several days with the cows being sent out to pasture. Liquid deposits built up. Sometimes you had to prod a dairy cow that was lying down to get on her feet to be milked.

What a shame it was when a cow lying down with her tail in the gutter, decided to swish her tail and plaster you with stinking residue. That was a time you thought of murder but it didn't do much good to dwell on those thoughts. You needed to finish the milking, clean-up again, put on your best smile and hurry out the lane to catch your ride to your evening activity. Do any of you former farm kids remember the “swish of the cow's tail?”

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## WE PEOPLE BORN BETWEEN 1940 -1980 WERE THE BLESSED ONES. OUR LIVES ARE LIVING PROOF!

While playing and riding a bike, we never wore a helmet. We played with real friends, not virtual friends. If we were thirsty, we drank tap water or water from the hose, not mineral water. We never worried even as we shared the same cup of juice with four friends. We used to make our own toys and play with them. Our parents were not rich. They gave love, not stuff. We never had a cell phone, DVD, game console, Xbox, video games, PC, internet chat...but we had true friends. **We may have had black and white photos, but you can find colorful memories in those photos.** We are a limited edition!

## THE HAY'S MILL GRIST MILL



This framed picture of the former grist mill in the village of Hay's Mill has been donated by Kathy (Shockey) and Kent Schoffstall. The frame is actually constructed out of wood that came out of the mill when it was dismantled in the 1930s during the time period when it was owned by the late Homer P. Boger. Kathy is the granddaughter of Homer and Sadie (Swearman) Boger, who had this picture hanging for many years in their television room in the historic stone home that was built for Pioneer Simon HöH (1742-1842) who immigrated from Gerhardsbrunn, Germany.

**Members of the Ephraim E. and Melissa (Poorbaugh) Boger family.** L to R: Alda Boger, Essie Boger, Melissa Boger – mother; Ephraim E. Boger, father holding Russell Boger; and neighbor Ephraim Bauman. P. Ephraim Hay is on the horse. Baden Boger is the little boy in front of his mother, Melissa Boger. At the time of this picture Jacob Becker was the miller in charge of the mill's operation. The mill operated until 1918. Sometime in the 1930s owner Homer P. Boger tore it down. Homer P. Boger was a son of Ephraim E. Boger, who bought the mill in 1915 from the Jacob P. and George Becker family.



## BOOKSHELF DONATED BY THE DANIEL HAY ESTATE

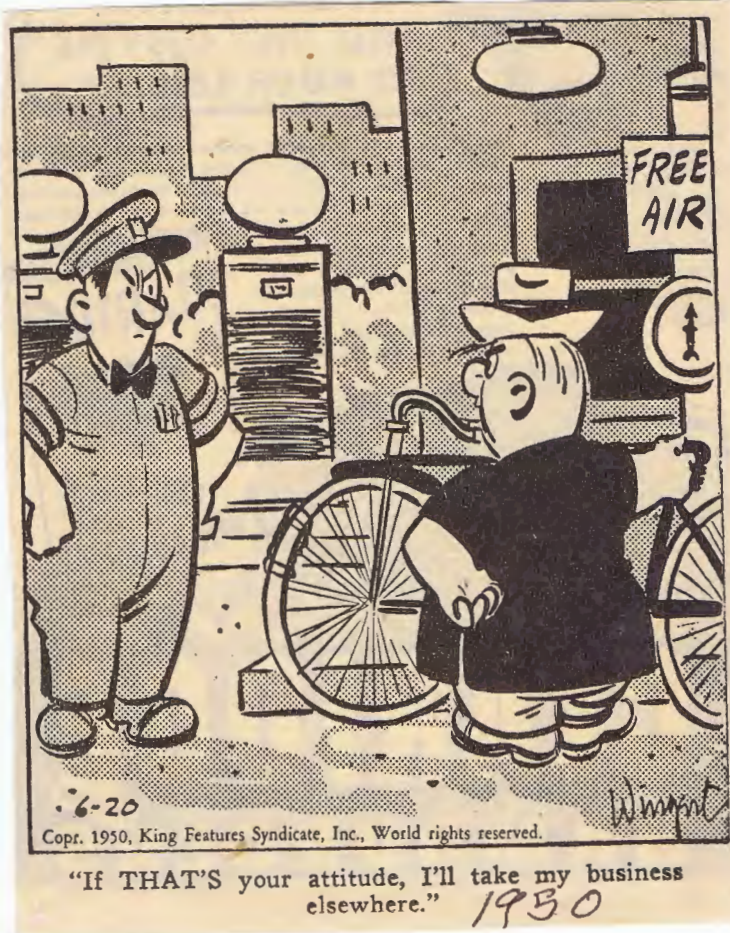
This three-shelf bookcase with glass doors has been donated to the Berlin Area Historical Society from the estate of Daniel G. "Danny" Hay, (1951-2023), who was a life member of BAHS. The bookcase has been placed behind the desk of BAHS curator, David R. Hay, an older brother of the 1969 graduate of BBHS.



## DONATIONS

Robert Reiman has donated five items: 1. A very old, hand-made Jack plane. Its blade is William Butcher steel. It is connected with the Reiman/Rieman/Rayman family. 2. A Soldier's Story: Jacob Zorn's Civil War Dairy. 3. An original copy of the Descendants of Susannah Beeghly and Christian Fike, compiled by W. G. Beegly. 4. An original copy of the three volume set of the History of Bedford and Somerset Counties. Some marginal notes were written by Robert's grand-aunt Ruth Victoria Reiman. 5. Somerset County Church Records, translated by Ezra C. Saylor

## 1950 HUMOR



## ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

**Amy (Dively) Bowman** donated a set of the three volumes of Somerset and Bedford County histories that were used by her grandfather, the late George S. Dively during his teaching of local history in the Berlin Brothersvalley Schools. Some say his history classes helped them enjoy local history. The books have been place on Mr. Dively's desk that was also donated by the William Dively family in recent years.

## COMMENTS

**Larry DePhillips** donated a picture featuring former President Richard Nixon and Judge Thomas Lansbury along with a humorous postcard.

Our **historical society's cook book** has been selling steadily. Workers have been busy assisting at the log cabin site. Many have helped pulling nails out of the older logs and getting ready for the erection of the cabin on the foundation in place on the Croner lot across from our barn.



## AN EGG CARRIER



### LaVERNE (SUDER) COSLIC DONATED THE ABOVE EGG CARRIER

**LaVerne (Suder) Coslic** donated the egg carrier filled with artificial eggs. While it doesn't have a sentimental value to her family, LaVerne recalls hearing her father, the late Harry Suder reminisce about his father, Wallace Suder having such an egg carrier when Harry was a youngster. His father died when Harry was a small lad. LaVerne bought this egg carrier and displayed it in her home until downsizing into smaller quarters.

### ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

**Robert and Debbie Mack** donated six slightly used binders while the **Berlin Thrift Shop** also donated numerous slightly used binders for use in our genealogy and office area. **Kay Ann Cober** donated miscellaneous sports memorabilia to the John and Lucille Lichvar Sports Museum. A lot of organizational work went into the Lichvar sports area in recent months. **Chris Blubaugh** donated a Mizpah United Methodist Church decorative plate. **David "Buck" Bowser** donated and installed leaf guards on the spouting of our genealogy building.