

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 13, 2022



**THE HOME OF ROBERTA (LONG)
BROWNING & THE LATE GLENN BROWNING
THE SETTLEMENT OF BOONE**

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEANNE CALVERT



**LEANNE (SHOBER) CALVERT – 34TH ANNUAL OUTSTANDING
CITIZEN OF THE BERLIN LION'S CLUB.**

**FRONT ROW (L TO R) JEFF CALVERT, LEANNE AND TOM CALVERT,
AND ZACK CALVERT. BACK ROW: SANDRA AND LARRY SHOBER,
ROBYN CALVERT, AND TARA AND BRAD SHOBER.**

PHOTO BY SANDRA LEPLEY

Leanne Calvert receives 34th annual Outstanding Citizen Award

Sandra Lepley

Daily American correspondent

Leanne (Shober) Calvert, of Berlin, area received the Berlin Lions Club's 34th Annual Outstanding Citizen Award during a banquet at the borough's community building Nov. 2.

Calvert was presented with the award by Lions' members Bill Day, president, during the evening ceremony and Calvert's family and friends were there to show their support.

Community involvement is in Calvert's DNA. She is not the first in her family to receive this prestigious award. Her brother Larry Shober was honored in 2012. Valley Grange, Somerset County and Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers, County 4-H Program, Berlin Firemen and many other groups have benefited from the Shober

family's volunteerism throughout the years.

For Calvert, her passion for community involvement started at a young age working in the Valley and Pomona granges and then in the Sheep 4-H Club. In the early 1950s, she made it to the Western Pennsylvania Junior Livestock Show on Herr's Island in Pittsburgh, where she exhibited her champion market lamb.

Leanne is a graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School and during those high school years, she participated in many extracurriculars including the Pennsylvania Maple Queen contest and was crowned Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen.

She and Tom Calvert were married in 1964 and currently live on Archery Road in the location of the Shober Family Farm. Tom recalls his first evening in Somerset County, when Leanne opened the meeting

of the Somerset County 4-H Council. They have two sons, Jeff Calvert of Berlin, and Steve, who passed away in 2014. They have two grandchildren, Zach and Lucas, and one step grandchild, Jessica Lewes.

After high school, Leanne later went to Indiana University of Pennsylvania to major in elementary education. She came back to her hometown to work at Berlin Brothersvalley Elementary School, mainly teaching second and third grades. Education is extremely important to her and is reflected in her participation on the Berlin Brothersvalley School District Educational Foundation, where she was one of the original members and served faithfully for over ten years. She is currently a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society, where she has served in most officer positions, including president and on many committees.

Retired but very busy, she continues to serve the community. She is an active member of the Berlin Trinity United Church of Christ, where she participates in the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir, and occasionally she plays piano for church and Sunday School services. She is a Sunday School teacher as well as a consistory member and on many committees in her church.

She is also an active member in the Pius Spring Women's Club, holding most offices including president throughout the years. Preserving Berlin's history and continuing to educate others about the Town of Berlin remains one of her passions as she serves as president of the Berlin Area Historical Society. When Leanne is not serving her community, she enjoys traveling and playing bridge.

FAMILY TREE OF VINCENT VAN GOGH

His dizzy aunt ----- Verti Gogh
 The brother who ate prunes ----- Gotta Gogh
 The brother who worked at a convenience store ----- Stop N Gogh
 The grandfather from Yugoslavia ----- U Gogh
 His magician uncle ----- Where-diddy Gogh
 His Mexican cousin ----- A Mee Gogh
 The Mexican cousin's American half-brother ----- Gring Gogh
 The nephew who drove a stage coach ----- Wells-far Gogh
 The constipated uncle ----- Can't Gogh
 The ballroom dancing aunt ----- Tang Gogh
 The bird lover uncle ----- Flamin Gogh
 An aunt who taught positive thinking ----- Way-to-Gogh
 The little bouncy nephew ----- Poe Gogh
 A sister who loved disco ----- Go Gogh

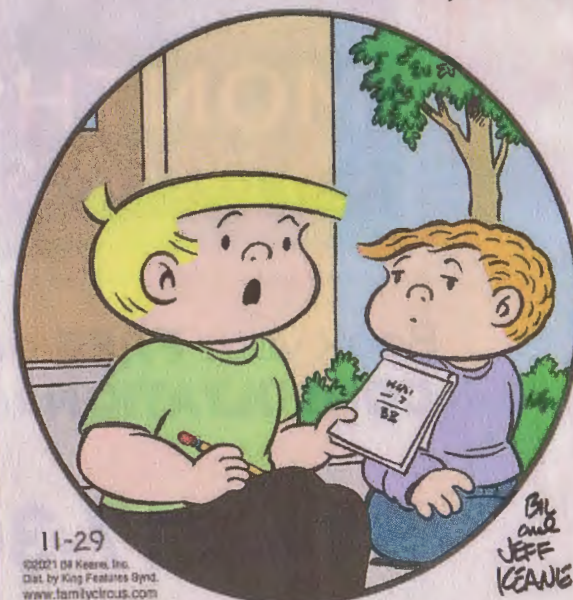
The brother with low back pain ----- Lum Bay Gogh

And his niece who travels the country in an RV --- Winnie Bay Gogh

I saw you smiling there ya Gogh

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane



11-29

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Bil and Jeff Keane

"Daddy said life begins at 40.
 I hafta wait another
 33 years!"

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1/12/49

Recent Berlin Bride

Oct.
1949



MRS. RONALD W. HARKCOM, the former Audrey Groff of Berlin, was married Friday in the Holy Lutheran church, Berlin. The young couple will reside in Cumberland, Md., where the bridegroom is employed by the Cumberland Times. (Bowen Photo).

FRED GROFF TURNS 80 YEARS OLD.

OPERATED A
MERCANTILE BUSINESS
FOR 50 YEARS IN BERLIN!

AUDREY (GROFF) HARKCOM
WAS A DAUGHTER OF RALPH
GROFF

Prominent Berlin Man Passes 80th Milestone

Fred Groff, outstanding citizen of Berlin for many years, was honored Wednesday, on his eightieth birthday, with a birthday dinner at Hollywood Inn, with his youngest son, Robert Groff and wife, as host and hostess.

At present Mr. Groff is known for his extensive business in maple sugar and syrup, which he ships to all parts of the nation. But previously he operated a large mercantile store, and has served his community in many leading positions.

Son of John A. and Elnora Swope Groff, he has since his boyhood seen many changes take place in the transition of old-time Berlin to the present modern town.

He attended the schools of Berlin and taught one term in Allegheny township. He then attended Iron City business college, Pittsburgh, and returned to Berlin to open his first mercantile store. He conducted a successful business 50 years.

In 1890 he married Miss Elizabeth Jane Musser, daughter of Samuel and Mrs. Elizabeth Spangler Musser of Brothersvalley township. They have been married 59 years.

Filled Offices

Mr. Groff is a former Burgess of Berlin, and was an active promoter of town lighting and a sewage system. He was borough treasurer many years. As a town council member, he was chairman of the committee that planned the brick paving of Berlin's Main street.

He was formerly president of the First National bank, having also served as vice president, and was the institution's first cashier. He is now a director. He has been treasurer of the Co-operative Mutual Fire Insurance company since 1898. A number of years ago he organized a mutual benefit organization for Somerset county volunteer firemen.

Politically, Mr. Groff is a Prohibitionist, having been candidate for state offices of that party. He has earnest convictions against the use of beverage alcohol, and all his life has battled against it, carrying petitions, distributing literature, and campaigning for temperance and abstinence.

Said a Berlin resident, "Mr. Groff has been an enthusiastic supporter of every movement for the good of his home town."

The Groffs have four children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild. Attending, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Groff were:

Mr. and Mrs. James Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Bert S. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. John Groff, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Groff, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Groff, Mr. and Mrs. George Groff, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Groff, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Groff, Mr. and Mrs. John Coleman, all of Berlin.

Dr. and Mrs. Harold E. Musser, Somerset; Mr. and Mrs. Bayard S. Maust, Salisbury; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Musser, Rockwood; Mr. and Mrs. Dan Evans, Shanksville; Misses Betty Maust, Patty Maust, Julia Ann Evans and Margaret Ellen Walker.

Relatives unable to attend were a sister, Mrs. P. W. Walker, Akron, O.; and two grandsons, Richard J. Gould, Michigan school of mines, and Ben F. Walker of the University of Pittsburgh.

Jan 1949

TURNING BACK THE PAGES OF TIME
BERLIN IN 1949

REMEMBER WHEN



IT WAS 1968 WHEN IRA COBER AND SON DONALD G. COBER SR. ADDED AN ADDITION TO THEIR DAIRY BARN!

DONATIONS:

Jean Woods donated a story with photos about a Brothersvalley Township Fraktar artist by the name of Joann Henrich Schumacher. The **estate of Colleen and Charles E. Maust** donated the 1952-1955 record book of the Mountaineer Homemakers. **Elaine Beattie** donated her son, the late Charles Beattie Jr.'s FFA jacket. **Wanda Bailey** donated a church afghan and a Philson Bank pewter plate. **Bob Platt** donated a digital scales.

Kay Ann Cober donated \$3,061.22 to the John and Lucille Sports Memorial. The **Wayne and Ann Darr Estate** donated the four volumes of the Walkinshaw History. **It was 2007 when the new back porch was added to our Heritage Haus.** (See the 2007 winter Memos.) Thank you to all our volunteers and those who donated time and treasures to BAHS during 2022. Happy New Year to all!

David R. Hay, Curator