

# **CURATOR'S REPORT**

## **THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2019**



# **GOODTOWN**

**BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP!**

**TAKEN 70 OR MORE YEARS AGO. SHOWING THE COAL COMPANY'S BUTCHER SHOP, THE GLEN NORRIS SCHOOL HOUSE AND THE JOHN POPOVICH FARM BUILDINGS AT THE TOP! PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LARRY R. PRITTS**

# GOODTOWN



WALTER B. NICHOLSON IS SITTING ON HIS FRONT LAWN OF HIS GOODTOWN HOME WHILE HOLDING HIS GRANDDAUGHTER GRACE (NICHOLSON) PRITTS. THE HOUSE IS THE BACKGROUND (BESIDE THE ORTHODOX CHURCH) WAS THE RESIDENCE OF GEORGE E. AND IDA JANE NICHOLSON.

THE FARM IN THE BACKGROUND IS THE FORMER NORMAN HAY TENANT FARM – NOW GONE – THAT WAS LOCATED ALONG THE HILLSIDE ABOVE THE ORTHODOX CHURCH.

---

## A FORMER COAL-MINING PATCH WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF MEMORIES!

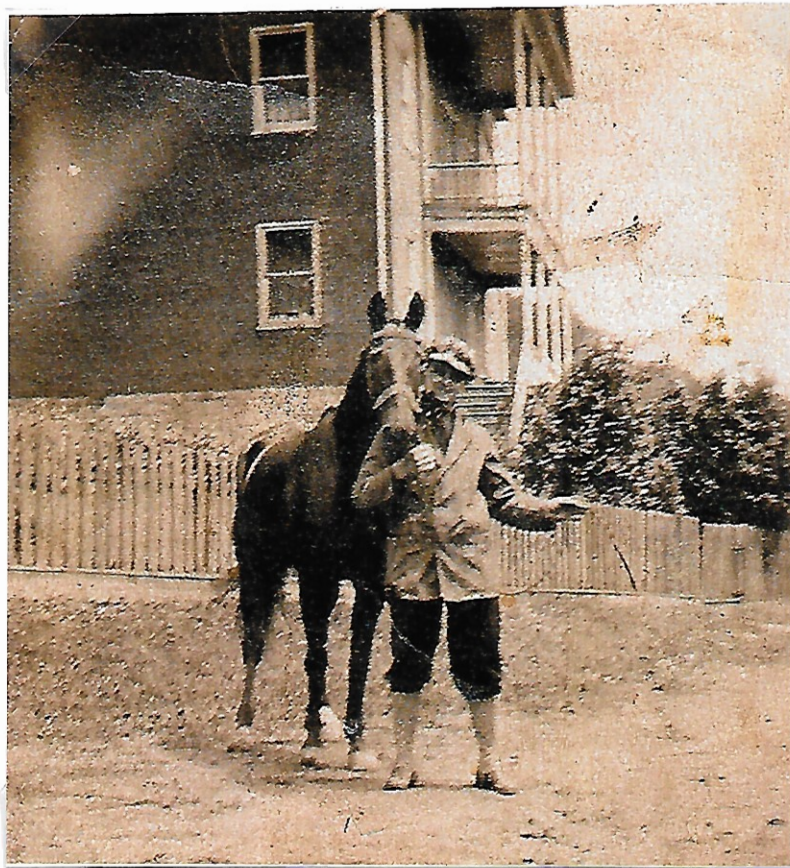
This report features wonderful archival photos pertaining to the Village of Goodtown in Brothersvalley Township thanks to the wonderful photos that board member Larry R. Pritts allowed us to copy. Larry's wife, Grace (Nicholson) Pritts grew up in Goodtown in a home that stood beside the Greek Orthodox Church, a daughter of George E. and Ida Jane (Miller) Nicholson. Grace's grandparents, Walter B. and Annie (Blubaugh) Nicholson lived on the house directly across the street in the coal mining patch that had its beginning in 1900. Her grandparents had also formerly lived up the hillside on what was known as the Hay-Gnagey-Rauch farm (the buildings of which are gone). The mining town was named for Isiah Good.

Goodtown has been special to your Curator from his childhood and attendance at

the Berlin School with other pupils from Goodtown. At the age of 11, Dave received a used bicycle that helped broaden his knowledge of the area. He felt very independent when he rode his bike along Walker School Road, turning onto Goodtown Road and peddling to the Leland Walker residence at the corner of Goodtown and Glen Norris Road. He slowly descended the hillside to the Norman Gnagey tenant farm to arrive in Goodtown. He was a little fearful about passing through an area with "so many houses!" Once above Goodtown in front of John and Alice Popovich's farm buildings, he had a down-hill ride to the Raineytown area where he enjoyed visiting Uncle John and Aunt Minnie Hay, who were tenant farmers on the Philson Farm. Thank you, Larry Pritts, for sharing such special photos of yesteryear in Goodtown!

# SCENES FROM LONG AGO IN GOODTOWN

LOOKING SOUTH ON TIPPLE ROAD  
IN GOODTOWN



WALTER NICHOLSON AT THE  
NORMAN HAY FARM AGOVE  
GOODTOWN  
WALTER NICHOLSON IN WW 1



# YESTERYEAR: GOODTOWN



OSCAR NICHOLSON AT GATE  
IN FRONT OF WALTER  
NICHOLSON HOME.



GEORGE & IDA NICHOLSON  
GARDEN WITH NORMAN  
HAY BARN IN THE BACKGROUND.



## **KAY ANN (LICHVAR) COBER'S CONTRIBUTIONS – INCLUDING MANY ITEMS TO THE JOHN & LUCILLE LICHVAR MEMORIAL SPORTS CENTER!**

**KAY ANN (LICHVAR) COBER** donated an updated collection of Berlin Brothersvalley High School sporting program booklets, which highlight the players with pictures, statistics, and useful information as well as various school and college playoff programs in which local students were team members. She is pictured holding a soccer shirt that was donated. The sports memorabilia also includes a collection of newspaper clippings highlighting football, basketball, volleyball and track games.



Her donations included BBHS School musical programs for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018; Heritage of America Cookbook, shoe stretchers, and an A. J. Logan Co, Pittsburgh, Mother's Friend tape measure. Also a 1964 BBHS commencement program; a Rails to Trail booklet with a 911 story and how it pertains to our area; Poets Paradise booklet by Howard Phillips, and A Little Book of Somerset County Verse – a Somerset Sesquicentennial publication.

There are wrist bands promoted by Carter Raupach for cancer; an advertisement for Ralph Stuck's Tire Service; Man's Best Friend (Dog) booklet; a variety of presidential election badges; Hammond's Universal World Atlas, and two Philson National Bank pouches. Collection includes a 1966 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's pictorial directory, The Warren Report-Official Report on the Assassination of President JFK; the book: The Torch is Passed and other JFK Memorabilia; and Remember When - a booklet prepared by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

**KAY ANN (LICHVAR) COBER**

---

## RANDY WARE DONATES A BEAM DRILL



### RANDY WARE

**RANDY WARE** donated a beam drill that likely belonged to his great grandpa, Amos Ware. Amos Ware owned a farm along Pine Valley Road in Allegheny Township that is currently owned by the Kenneth Benning family.

### MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

On **January 20, 1986**, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

## AMONG OUR LATEST DONATIONS!

**Jim Darr** donated a photo of the new Grove Church of the Brethren that was once located near Darr Electric. He also donated a number of books: Life of John Kline – an early member of the Church of the Brethren; Freinshof, a genealogy by Anna Glessner; three booklets in the series of the Beeghly genealogies by W. G. Beeghly; and The Seng Furniture Facts' Handbook.

**Tracy Weimer** donated the marriage bible (October 11, 1953) of Robert Jones and Mary Louise (Felton) Mowery. **Elmer Altfather** constructed a frame for a display arrangement. **Joyce Knotts** loaned Glencoe photos to copy and donated two telephone book covers with Berlin advertising. **Larry Pritts** loaned us a large selection of Goodtown photos – several which help illustrate this Curator's Report.

**Richard Berkley** donated a new Swingline stapler and a box of staples.

### ON THESE DATES:

**On January 20, 1953**, Dwight D. Eisenhower took the oath of office as president of the United States; Richard M. Nixon was sworn in as Vice President.

**On January 20 1964**, Capitol Records released the album "Meet the Beatles!"

**On January 15, 1943**, work was completed on the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

---



**SS PETER AND PAUL'S ORTHODOX CHURCH IN GOODTOWN!**

**A framed copy of this picture of the interior of the SS Peter and Paul's Greek Catholic Orthodox Church was donated by Rev. Father Elijah J. Bremer, Pastor of the Goodtown Church, as well as the Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church in Central City.**

**Father Bremer also donated the pictured miniature wooden cross that he carved out of an older church pew.**



## LONG GONE FROM BERLIN'S DIAMOND STREET



**304 DIAMOND STREET – BERLIN**

This old home once sat between the current Clarence Pritts' residence and South Street. The picture was donated by Eugene and Emily Bittner. The Lester and Eleanor Bittner family and later Earl and Mary Boyer resided in the Pritts' home, which was built for Samuel Brubaker.

Looking for a copy of the 1959 Chichonian yearbook from the Shanksville-Stonycreek High School. Judy (Landis) Cook has been added as a newer volunteer and has been assisting Barbara Miller with typing jobs. Judy is currently bringing up to date the Index to our obituary files. Thanks to our volunteers and inventory updates for your services. **David Hay, Curator**

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNA (MOORE) McQUADE ON HER 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

(Taken from the Somerset Daily American)



Submitted photo

### **McQuade turns 100**

Anna McQuade celebrated her 100th birthday on Monday. She was born in New Centerville on Jan. 7, 1919, to Jesse and Ruth Moore. She married William L. McQuade on Oct. 21, 1936. They were married for 64 years prior to his death on Dec. 28, 2000. She has one daughter, one granddaughter and two grandsons. She spent most of her life in Berlin. At one time she owned the Berlin Dairy Bar. She also worked in the cafeteria in the Berlin Brothersvalley School District for 17 years and retired in 1984. She is the oldest member of the Berlin Brethren Church. She is the last surviving member of the Jesse and Ruth Moore family. She had six sisters. She will be celebrating with family and friends Sunday at Siemon's Heritage Personal Care Center, where she resides. She credits her long life to having a wonderful husband and family.