

CURATOR'S REPORT

THE BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 14, 2017

ALTFATHER FLOUR MILL!



**BUILT IN 1783 – 1784 BY
FREDERICK ALTFATHER, SR. AND HIS
SON, FREDERICK ALTFATHER, JR.**

**NEAR PRESENT DAY
MACDONALDTON!**

EDGAR RUPP ALTFATHER'S DISPLAY CASE!



ELMER C. ALTFATHER BESIDE NEW CHERRY DISPLAY CASE!

During the afternoon of January 13, 2017, former BAHS board member Elmer C. Altfather placed on loan the above cherry display case. It features interesting memorabilia pertaining to the short life of his great uncle Edgar Rupp Altfather (born October 25, 1869 and died November 8, 1897.) Elmer created the display case to showcase various items pertaining to the life of Edgar Altfather. (See the story of Edgar's tragic accident at Ursina in this Curator's Report.) The new display case sits upon the glass showcase directly below the large picture of the Altfather Flour Mill that was presented some years ago by Elmer's brother and sister-in-law, the late Walter and Elaine Altfather.

Included in the new display is a letter from Edgar to his brother John Calvin Altfather, just before his death, and an arithmetic school book used by Edgar and his cousin, William C. Dively. These items were passed on to Elmer from his brother Lewis Clay Altfather some years ago. This display case was constructed after Elmer copied the story of the tragic death of Edgar R. Altfather from the weekly edition of the *Berlin Record*, dated Friday, November 12, 1897.

Just before Elmer C. Altfather's grandfather John Calvin Altfather died, he passed on to Elmer Calvin Altfather, Edgar Rupp Altfather's double barrel mussel loader. The double barrel mussel loader, included in the display is believed to have been built by Edgar and his father, John Altfather. As Elmer worked on the project, he felt like he lived with Edgar R. Altfather during his short life. Both men grew up in the same farm house in different time periods. Building the case to display these historical items and placing it on loan at the Berlin Area Historical Society provided an interesting winter pastime for Elmer.

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF EDGAR R. ALTFATHER ON NOVEMBER 8, 1897 AT THE AGE OF 28 YEARS

DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT URSINA.

Edgar Altfather Mangled to Death by being Caught in a Belt.

The large circle of relatives and friends of Edgar R. Altfather were greatly shocked when the news reached them in Berlin and the township that he had been mangled and torn so that he lived but a few hours, by being caught in a belt and pinioned to a rapidly revolving shaft in a flouring mill at Ursina.

The mill is operated by H. D. Altfather and Edgar, who is a nephew, was his assistant. On Monday last, when Edgar returned to the mill after dinner, he picked up a hand adz and ground it on a grindstone that was run by a two-inch belt extending from an overhead line-shaft. It was in attempting to throw off the belt that the sad accident occurred. Edgar's left forearm was caught in the belt in some way and he was drawn up to the rapidly revolving shaft and held there by the arm until his legs were thrashed to a dangling mass of flesh and broken bones against the ceiling, a number of ribs were broken and the arm was torn off below the elbow.

The severing of the arm released him so that he fell to the floor. The victim had not uttered any cry, but his uncle being attracted by the unusual noise caused by his limbs striking against the ceiling, came and found him lying in his pitiable condition on the floor.

Edgar was taken to the house and lived until twenty-five minutes after four o'clock. His watch had stopped at six and three-fourths minutes past one, indicating the exact moment when the young man was drawn up to the shaft. The shaft makes 200 revolutions per minute, but Edgar, who was conscious up to almost the moment of his death, thought that he was bound to the shaft for a few seconds only. The shock to his system rendered his injuries painless and when he realized his awful condition he expressed the wish that he might not live.

Edgar was aged 28 years and 12 days. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Altfather of the township, who have the sympathy of the entire community. The body was brought to Berlin on the Wednesday noon train and conveyed at once to the Odd Fellow cemetery and laid to rest. The funeral was largely attended. Dr. Kromer of the Reformed church officiated and preached the sermon in the church after the funeral.

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AN EARLY MAY DAY CELEBRATION AT BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL



Left to right: Nora Hoffman, Charlotte Stuck, Kathleen Griffith, Ruth Donner, Betty Donner, Sarah Levy, Sara Sanner, Charlotte Lane, Geraldine Johnson and Thelma Painter.

This picture was donated by Emeline (Coleman) Diehl and originally belonged to her Grandma Elsie Mae (Long) Beachley.

Eggs for Hatching

S. C. Mottled Ancona; pen headed by 1st Cockerel at Pittsburg Expo. Show, January, 1915; fine strain; \$1 per setting of 15 eggs, \$6 per hundred.

S. C. White Leghorn, pen headed by Barron Cock; price same.

W. P. SHAW,
BERLIN, PA.

White Wyandottes

Regal and Fell strain eggs for hatching. 1st pen, \$3.00 per 15. 2nd pen, \$2.00 per 15. 3rd pen, \$1.00 per 15.

Every bird in first pen a show specimen.

H. M. O'DELL,
Box 37. Macdonaldton, Pa.

Unclaimed Letters

The following letters remain unclaimed at the Berlin Post Office and unless called for will be sent to the Dead Letter office:

Mr. Shannon Davis, John Duse, Mrs. W. J. Friel, Miss Flora Myers, Dr. Wm. Williams, John Walton, post card. Foreign, Dal Bon Gilacamo.

In asking for above please say "advertised." One cent postage due on each advertised letter delivered.

W. V. MARSHALL, Postmaster.

Eggs for Hatching

Buff Plymouth Rocks, Gold Nugget strain. Price, 50c. for setting of 15 eggs or \$3.00 per 100.

Also day-old chicks if ordered in advance.

STUART W. PRITZ,
BERLIN, PA.

Eggs for Hatching

Thoroughbred Brown Leghorns and Barred Rocks. Also day-old chicks for sale. Prices reasonable.

J. WALLACE SUDER,
Berlin, Pa., R. D. 2.

More Names for Honor Roll

There will be 53 more names placed on the honor roll erected by Harry Fisher Post American Legion, making a total of 641 names. The added names are: J. William Shultz, H. M. Wilkow, Jr., Robert S. Brick, John Orlo Walker, Clyde L. Imhoff, E. F. Meyers, H. R. Meyers, C. P. Mostoller, Glenn Saylor, L. C. Weaver, Mildred Brady, Catherine Brady, E. E. Boyer, J. A. Collins, R. I. Lambert, P. R. Miller, Lewis Mostoller, Clarence Lowry, C. L. Lowry, E. L. Paul, F. C. Pile, W. G. Page, D. P. Restley, J. C. Zeigler, L. J. Shaffer, R. L. Bittner, Harold Page, W. J. Naughton, Q. L. Maust, Arthur Holt, George Holt, R. R. Bittner, R. B. Allen, P. L. Wagner, D. W. Lambert, A. J. Tokoly, P. R. Shang, Telford Bush, G. H. Hostetler, Homer Martz, William R. Zimmerman, Wilbur K. Kreimbrock, C. C. Norris, J. D. Weyant, C. L. Beale, B. E. Boyer, Fred Miller, Freeman Miller, W. E. Whitaker.

Samuel F. Buckman will place the names on the roster. There are four gold stars and two more will be placed.

APRIL 9, 1915

1944

THE BERLIN COMMUNITY GROVE



COPIED FROM A PICTURE LOANED BY LARRY PRITTS

DONATIONS

Suzanne Walker donated a collection of old newspapers, older editions of Memos and several historical booklets. Michael and Lisa Leslie have donated two school desk. **Terry and Arlene Suder** have donated a Red Rose Farm Feed Products Manual, Shefford Cheese recipe booklet, and a variety of older advertising calendars from the Brotherton Garage, Salisbury Builders' Supply, Yoder's Country Market, Robert H. Suder - Building Contractor (1986), Tom Shannon, 2 Bingman's A/G Market, Harris Bakery, and Walter Piper & Sons. **Terry and Arlene Suder** also donated the August 14, 1873 framed wedding certificate with photos of Philip Benford and Julia E. Chorpenning as well as a framed Civil War Company K 5th Pennsylvania Volunteers Heavy Artillery Soldier's Memorial that also lists the company officers (April 21, 1865)

New life members are **Martin and Emeline Diehl**. They also donated miscellaneous items from the estate of **Anna Belle Coleman-Bockes** that include the Freindshof genealogy booklet authored by Anna M. Glessner. **Darrell McClintock** donated a photo of Berlin's graduating class of 1917. **Hillcrest Grangers** held their February 8, 2017 meeting in our genealogy building and toured our facilities.



Today's the day

Today is Berlin Fife and Drum Corps Day in Berlin, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the corps. Watching as Mayor Paul Saylor signs the proclamation are corps members (from left) Jim Darr, vice president; Jim Stuck, Al Queer, C.W. Altfather and John Landis, president. Stuck, Queer and Altfather all

Aug 7, 1982 (Staff photo by Bobbie Black)

have over 40 years of service. A parade will be held at 7 p.m. tonight, followed by a dance to be held at the Berlin VFW. Other fife and drum corps to be attending today's festivities are from Washington, D.C., Indian Head, Md., Clintonville, W. Va., and Greensburg.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By **Bil Keane**



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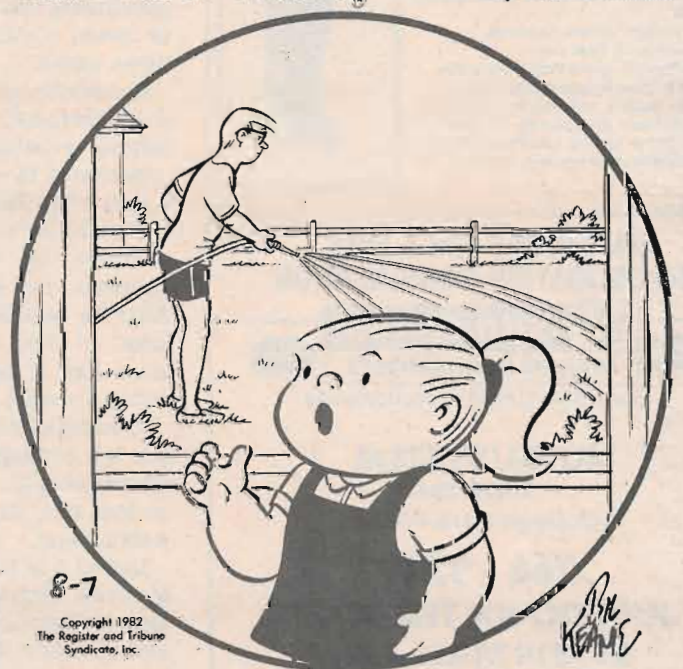
*Bil Keane
and
JEFF KEANE*

**"I don't think I'm as big a boy
as Grandma thinks."**

50-202195-1

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By **Bil Keane**



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Bil Keane

"Daddy's washing the grass."

60TH REUNION OF THE CLASS OF 1954 AT BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY HIGH SCHOOL!



PHOTO LOANED BY WILLIAM KELLER FOR COPYING PURPOSES!

We appreciate our many volunteers and the many things they do to keep everything running smoothly at BAHS. We also appreciate the volunteers who organize, edit, and

contribute items to each new edition of our Memos. We receive many good compliments about the Memos!

David R. Hay, Curator